THE

R——L

REGISTER.

WITH

ANNOTATIONS

By ANOTHER HAND.

SIC PATER ÆNEAS.

VIRG.

VOL. VII.

LONDON:

Printed for J. BEW, No. 28, Pater-Noster-Row.

M,DCC,LXXXII.

45
10 8
74
BRITISH MUSEUM

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS work, prolonged by great public approbation, at length verges to a concluſion. —Some few important characters both in Church and State yet remain behind.—The principal Ladies of the preſent period will then follow, and cloſe the intereſting review.

INDEX

INDEX

TO THE

CHARACTERS.

	Page
B——w, T. Esq. ——	1
B—, E. Esq. —— —	105
Burke, Mr. Edmund, oratory of —	161
B——, C——— ——	116
C——, G———l ——	50
C—, Ld. —— ——	54
C——, Sir G. ——	73
C——, Sir J. ——	90
Chatham, late Earl of, his oratorical abilities —— ——	154
D——, Sir L. ——	78
D——, J. Esq. —— ——	91
Dunning, Mr. oratorical character of	169
F———, Sir C. — —	26
F——, G——— ——	103
H——y, The Rt. Hon. A———n	11
H—, G. Esq. ——	48

H———,

INDEX.

Page

H———, The Rt. Hon. W. G. 65
H——, H. Esq. (now Lord P———) 129

M——, Ld. —— —— 56
M——, R. Esq. —— 85
Mansfield, E. of, his oratorical abilities 147

N——, Sir F. —— —— 36

Orators, brief account of —— 139

P—, C. Esq. —— —— 28
P——, Ld. —— —— 68
P———, Ld. —— 100

R——, The Rt. Hon. R. —— 7
R——, Sir T. —— 135

S———, J. Esq. —— —— 64
S—, F. Esq. —— —— 131

T——, C. Esq. —— —— 127

W——, The Hon. Mr. H. —— 18
W——, R. Esq. —— —— 114
W———, The Hon. B. —— 122

CHA-

CHARACTERS, &c.

T——s B——w, Eſq.

THERE is no object of ſpeculation more pleaſing to a well-inſtructed and liberal mind, than a man who is winning his way from Obſcurity to Fortune by the force of his own peculiar Merit. The pleaſure is great in viewing the natural efforts of Genius riſing from one degree of excellence to another; but how is the ſatisfaction enhanced, when the hand of Juſtice is ſeen to beſtow the merited reward!

That Tide, which, taken at the height, leads on to Fortune, continually eſcapes the fond attention of numbers, who might have been borne, by its flood, to all they could have wiſhed of Honour, Wealth, and Greatneſs; and, never being able to recover the tranſient opportunity, muſt be content to ſigh out the reſt of their days in a comparative degree of unmerited Obſcurity; while others, without Ambition, without Attention, without Expectation, and frequently without Merit, find, as it were, intruſive opportunities of embracing Fortune wherever they turn. Thus it is, that the race is not always to the ſwift, nor the battle to the ſtrong; and, what may at firſt appear ſtill more

more extraordinary, that there is not Bread to men of Skill and Underſtanding. The whole of rational Nature muſt feel the allotments of Time and Chance: the Sovereign and the Subject, the Tyrant and the Slave, are alike compelled to acknowledge the force of their irreſiſtible influence.

The Gentleman, whoſe rapid riſe to Fortune occaſioned the preceding obſervations, ſeemed to command, for the greater part of his life, thoſe favourable circumſtances which wait upon the wiſhes of proſperous men. They were, indeed, examples of that rare anticipation which marks the moſt valued gifts of Fortune. But ſo it is, and ſuch is the uncertainty

of human affairs, that, after the voyage is paſt, without an angry wave, or an adverſe wind, the exulting veſſel is ſometimes ſeen to ſink in the very haven which was made for ſafety †.

* * * * * * *
* * * * * * *
* * * * * * *
* * * * * * *

† Mr. B— — was, originally, an inferior Clerk in one of the public offices, where his qualifications as an accomptant, an aſſiduous diſcharge of his duty, and a happy pliability of manners, made him popular in the ſphere of that period, and occaſioned his being recommended, I think it was, to Mr. M—, who was at that time going out to the government of Jamaica, and wanted a perſon of Mr. B— —'s qualifications to attend him as a private ſecretary. Recommendation was ſucceeded by appointment; but Fortune had marked

marked out for her favourite a very different career than in a diſtant quarter of the globe, beneath a burning ſun, and in a ſubordinate government: and ſhe effected her purpoſe by one of thoſe trifling occurrences which claim their temporary wonder who watch the pantomimical ſcenes of life.—Governor M—, on his return from Town to his houſe at Richmond, accompanied by his late-appointed ſecretary, arrived at Kenſington in the moment when Lord *Barrington's* journey to *Peterſham* had ſuffered ſomewhat of an interruption by the breaking down of his carriage. The Governor's politeneſs offered his Lordſhip a place in his coach, which was readily accepted; and, in the courſe of an official converſation which took place as they went along, Mr. B— — diſcovered a degree of ability and intelligence which cauſed the Secretary at War to beg the Governor of Jamaica to ſpare the young man for the ſervice of the War department; where he ſo

conducted himself, that, in a very short comparative period, he was appointed deputy-secretary, and first clerk of that office. In this situation, he had the opportunity, which he did not fail to improve, of employing his pleasant qualifications to enlarge the number of his friends. In this important object he fully succeeded; and, among other respectable names, he conciliated the partial regard of the late Mr. *Charles Townshend*, by whose influence, I believe, he was appointed Secretary of the Treasury. After the death of that statesman, he is supposed to have, by various means, acquired so leading an ascendency over the D— of G— —, as to become a principal engine in the direction of public affairs at that period. He was afterwards one of the Lords of the Admiralty, in the possession of which employment he died, in 1774.

I have never heard that his pleasing manners and amiable deportment ceased to accom-

The Rt. Hon. R—— R——.

IT is not every man, whatever his rank, his talents, or integrity may be, who poſſeſſes, at all

company him at any period of his life. In his official capacity, as well as in his perſonal character, it ſeems to have been his ſtudy never to give offence; and, while the Creature of a bad Miniſter was deteſted, *Tom B——w* was univerſally conſidered with eſteem. But, alas! he, whoſe office it had been to watch over the national œconomy, entirely neglected his own; and having, from a convivial diſpoſition, united with an extreme vanity, brought himſelf into a ſituation which he thought inextricable, he ſcorned to ſurvive the approaching diſgrace, and with his own hand put a period to his exiſtence.

times, and in all circumſtances, the manly reſolution of declaring his mind. It is a quality which Virtue cannot always command, and Ability will not always exert. There are, however, ſituations, in which what is called Prudence in the world, and may be very neceſſary in the ordinary matters of life, is no longer a virtue. Many men, of conſiderable talents and real integrity, have been loſt to their country, from a cautious apprehenſion of riſing ſuperior to it.

The man, who fears the ſarcaſm of the ſarcaſtic, the envy of the envious, the inſults of the inſolent, or the malice of the diſappointed, is not

not qualified to fill the more important ſtations of life. His virtues muſt be confined to the narrow circle of domeſtic exertion, and be loſt in that gulph of public good—the Love of private Tranquillity.

This Right Honourable Gentleman is, fortunately, endowed with that manly ſpirit, which, when the tongue of the Orator has faultered, and miniſterial Reſolution been ſeen to ſhrink, has rendered him ſuperior to the ſhifts of his leſs daring political aſſociates, and has urged him to avow the reaſons of his public conduct in the very teeth of a ſcoffing Oppoſition. Such a man is of great utility to Government, and

deſerves

deſerves a principal ſhare in the emoluments of it *.

The

* Whether this Gentleman's general and unreſerved avowal of his political motives ariſes from a ſtern, unequivocal honeſty, or from a mind of the moſt abandoned depravity, may amuſe the curious of the preſent, and, perhaps, of a future age; for I will do him the juſtice to ſuppoſe that his name will not eſcape poſterity. The ſcene of *Litchfield* horſe-courſe, which raiſed him to the partial protection that has proved the ſource of his uncommon fortune, is ſo univerſally known, that it would be deſervedly conſidered as an act of impertinence to offer another repetiton of it.——Whatever merit he may have with Government for his effrontery in P— — — —, it is to his artful management of the *Bedford* party that he owes the poſſeſſion of an employment, whoſe enormous profits are unjuſtifiable and diſgraceful, and demand the ſerious attention of a pilfered people. Mr. R——, as is common with men who have riſen from the dregs of ſociety to wealth and greatneſs, is arbitrary and

The Rt. Hon. A———n H——y.

IT is a natural and honourable circumſtance in a commercial country, when Nobility, throwing aſide all fooliſh pride and every vain prejudice, ſends its offspring to the Accompting-houſe, to enjoy the profits, and, if poſſible, to extend the limits, of that commerce which is the ſtaple baſis of the na-

and ſelfiſh. His chief talent is Ridicule, which he employs with ſucceſs, and in abundance, where ridicule ought very ſparingly to be employed,—in the Houſe of Commons.—In private life, he is of a chearful, lively, convivial diſpoſition; and owes to the corruption, as well as misfortunes, of his country, that he is become one of the wealthieſt men in it.

tion.

tion. The landed property of a country, where no external trade was admitted, would do little more than ſupport its poſſeſſors; and the internal barter of provincial commodities, in a kingdom of ſmall extent, would be ſo trivial, as to occaſion little or no exertion of activity or enterprize. If ſuch a people could be ſuppoſed to exiſt, they would form a nation of Villagers, who might be virtuous and happy; and the warm imagination of fanciful philoſophers might deſcribe them as poſſeſſing the envied innocence of a golden age: but the magnificence, the wealth, the population, the power, and glory of kingdoms, muſt ariſe from that vaſt extent and variety of ſoil and cli-

mate,

mate, which will create a continual current of internal trade, or from the peculiar ſituation of a country, aided by the enterprizing ſpirit and curious ſkill of its inhabitants, which will command the produce of the diſtant world to its own havens. To give, however, the laſt perfection to that grand ſcheme of Commerce, which is the moſt aſſured parent of national greatneſs, the commercial character muſt be conſidered as honourable, and the State muſt not refuſe to decorate its more eminent Merchants with thoſe external honours, which the venial weakneſs, the natural vanity, and ſometimes, perhaps, the conſcious virtue of mankind, conſider and ſigh after

after as reſpectable diſtinctions and adequate rewards.

Cicero has declared, that the ſame people ſhould not be at once the Lords and Factors of the whole earth. *Nolo eandem populum imperatorem et portitorem eſſe terrarum.* This opinion might be conſonant to the principles of Roman Government; but that great ſtateſman did not live in the enjoyment of the pre-eminent liberty which ſuſtains, extends, and ennobles Britiſh Commerce. His mind, illuminated as it was beyond all that preceded him in the Pagan world, could not conceive that a mercantile people ſhould ariſe in a barbarous country,

annexed

annexed by conqueſt, in his day, to the Roman empire, who, in the courſe of time, would preſent to the ſurrounding world the moſt glorious political ſpectacle which it was ever deſtined to behold.

Were the Nobles, by whom I mean the head and ſtock of noble families, to enter into the concerns of Trade, the power of their fortunes and credit would attract the whole to itſelf, and form a monopoly which is contrary to the ſpirit of Commerce, would be ſubverſive of its freedom, and muſt in the end deſtroy it *. But when they exer-

* It is on this principle that the Nobles of Venice are forbidden by law to engage in Commerce.

ciſe

ciſe that prudent relaxation of their pride, in aſſigning the younger and unprovided branches of their order to commercial engagements; they give credit to a claſs of men, whoſe induſtry, ſpirit, and wealth, create a national proſperity and glory, which the arms of military Empire never acquired. It is better that Merchants ſhould attain the rank of Nobility, than that the Nobles ſhould ſink into Merchants. In a monarchical government, the Nobility cannot engage in Trade; and, in a free government, which poſſeſſes any monarchical attributes, the order of Nobles muſt, in a proportionate degree, be kept diſtinct from the trading and commercial claſſes.

I have

I have ventured to hazard a few ſpontaneous obſervations on a ſubject which requires more ſolid thought than almoſt any other; and I have been imperceptibly led into theſe reflections by the character of the noble merchant and valuable citizen whoſe very reſpectable name precedes them.—Such a man reflects honour upon his profeſſion, his birth, and his country *.

The

* Without entering into the merit of the foregoing conſiderations, I ſhall only obſerve, that, from the matter as well as the manner of them, one might be naturally led to expect that they were introductory to the character of a merchant whoſe univerſal and extenſive commerce graſped every quarter of the globe. I was ſurprized, therefore, to find theſe reflections cloſed with a Wine-merchant, an

The Honourable

Mr. H— ——— W—n.

IT has been obſerved by a great character among the moral writers of

Underwriter, and a Government Contractor, of noble birth indeed, but without any right to the title of what is underſtood by a Britiſh Merchant. The political hiſtory of this gentleman is, I believe, as follows:

On the final retirement of Sir *John Barnard* from all public buſineſs, a body of the Livery of London, reſolving, if poſſible, to ſnatch the monopoly of city repreſentation from the Court of Aldermen, determined to propoſe and ſupport, with all their power, ſome reſpectable fellow-citizen who was not a member of the Corporation; and, after having made their offers in vain to ſeveral reſpectable merchants, they fixed, at laſt, upon Mr. H— —y, then a wine-merchant in Alderſgate-ſtreet, a young man of noble deſcent, and

of the preſent age, that the autumn is the moſt pleaſing ſeaſon of the year,

and enriched by the fortune of the lady he had married, who, if I have not been miſinformed, was the daughter of his father's ſteward. This Honourable Gentleman was at that time but little known, except by the members of a *Hunt* in the county of *Surry*, to which he belonged; the greater part of whom, being reſpectable citizens, formed a Society or Club, to forward, with all their zeal, induſtry, and influence, the election of their aſſociate. The endeavours of Mr. H--y's friends were crowned with ſucceſs; but, as he found that the original independent principle upon which he began his canvaſs would loſe him his election, if he perſevered in it, he had been obliged to lay it aſide, and to make a conditional promiſe to a great part of his friends among the Livery, that he would ſollicit the office of Alderman on the firſt vacancy. Such an opportunity ſoon preſented itſelf; and he became, contrary to the original intention both of himſelf and

year, that the evening is the moſt agreeable part of the day, and that the

his primary friends, a member of the firſt claſs of the Corporation of London. In a very few years after, he was elected one of the Sheriffs whoſe office it was to attend at the execution of the celebrated number *forty-five* of the *North-Briton*. An accidental diſturbance on the occaſion (for it was no more, as is clearly proved, vol. II. ſecond edition, p. 91. of this work) gave an appearance of danger to the execution of that buſineſs, which, on that account, was thought by a majority in both Houſes of Parliament to deſerve their public thanks.—The diſputes of that period are well known, and the very active part which the City of London took in them muſt be in very general remembrance. When Mr. H——y was elected Lord-Mayor, a ſpirit of oppoſition to the meaſures of Government ran high in the Corporation and Livery of London; but the Chief Magiſtrate had not yet formed his preſent firm and profitable connection with the Court.

During

the latter period of life affords the greateſt ſhare of real happineſs.

The

During his mayoralty, he ſallied forth, with great ſpirit, from the Manſion-houſe, and, in the face of a very numerous mob, carried off in triumph a factious old woman, with No. *forty-five* marked in her hat, bearing in her hand a gibbet with the ſuſpended figures of a *woman* and a *boot*, and who was amuſing the crowd with ſinging as well as ſelling certain ſatyrical ballads, whoſe ſubject pointed to the diſgrace of the neareſt connections of the Throne. For this act of magiſterial courage and exertion of official duty, the Lord-Mayor was honoured with a ſeat at the Privy Council, and was ſoon after appointed to direct the intereſt of the Court on the eaſtern ſide of Temple-bar. From this time he became a moſt deteſted object of popular odium, particularly in the City of London; his perſon was frequently inſulted, and his life, I believe, more than once in danger, from the rage of the populace. He continued, however, to exert a very manly, unceaſing reſo-

The fever of Youth has its delirium of joy; but it is the theatre of tyrannic Paſſion, where alternate hope and diſappointment follow each other ſo cloſe, as to allow but

lution in the cauſe he had undertaken, for which Government has thought proper to reward him with the means of growing rich, while the nation is becoming poor. He is a very principal public contractor, and is ſuppoſed, beſides, to be concerned in ſeveral little profitable jobs behind the miniſterial curtain. He did not venture to offer himſelf a third time to repreſent the City of London, but turned his views towards his native County, where he was violently, as well as ſucceſsfully, oppoſed; but, on a ſecond trial, he, with difficulty, obtained the repreſentation he had ſo anxiouſly deſired. If enormous wealth be the object of this Right Honourable Gentleman, he will devoutly pray for the continuance of a war which bids fair to gratify his moſt avaritious expectations.

ſhort

ſhort intervals either of pleaſure or pain. In a more advanced period, when Paſſion ſtill predominates, but takes a new form,--- when what are called the ſollicitudes of the world perplex, and a more ſober anxiety of purſuit employs the mind,--- the hot fits abate their fervour, the cold ones become more tolerable, but both are of longer duration. In the concluding years of exiſtence, when a man is no more the ſlave of violent paſſion, when experience has completed his judgment, and, being no longer goaded by hope, his apprehenſions of diſappointment are paſſed away, he finds himſelf in a calm ſtate of temperate enjoyment, amuſes himſelf with a review of the paſt, is a tranquil ſpectator of the

paſſing ſcene, and looks forward with compoſure to the end which he knows to be approaching. If the early part of his days ſhould have been dedicated to Science, he becomes, in age, an oracle of wiſdom; and, having quitted the hurry of active life, he inſtructs mankind from his honourable retirement, while he enjoys, in the actual reſpect of mankind, a foretaſte of that reputation which will convey to future times his venerable name.

Mr. W— — appears to enjoy the envied repoſe of virtuous and learned Age. By thoſe ingenious labours which have gilded his retired life, he has afforded a pleaſing inſtruction to the preſent and future times, given

given to the fancy innocent amuſements, improved the taſte of the age, reſcued from oblivion many a ſkilful artiſt who was an honour to his country, and ſecured that fame to himſelf which will laſt till the love of letters and the cultivation of the polite arts are no more. It is an honour to any man, of any ſtation, when Poſterity ſhall declare with gratitude that he has not lived in vain *.

* This Honourable and ingenious Gentleman, in an age of extreme luxury and diſſipation, has employed his time and talents to encreaſe the literary honours of his country. The productions of *Strawberry-Hill* will remain as laſting monuments of the genius, taſte, and application, which in his own day diſtinguiſhed the Poſſeſſor of that Temple of Literature.

Sir

Sir C— F———.

SUCH has been the rapid ſucceſſion of public men during the laſt twenty years, that I ſcarce know where to look for any one whom Death or Party, or ſomething worſe, has not prevented from growing grey in my ſervice. I love an old ſervant to my heart; and it adds to the mortifications of my life, that, among the principal men of the different public departments, there are ſo few of them. When my attention is directed to one whoſe political longævity has ariſen rather from family connections and caſual circumſtances, than any profeſſional merit or private excellence, he

he appears to maintain his poſt upon the ſame principle that an old-faſhioned piece of furniture occupies its corner. Though it may never have been of much uſe, and is now become of none; yet, for the ſake of thoſe who placed it in its ſituation, from the fooliſh prejudice of ſome who remembered it in its better days, or, perhaps, from an apprehenſion that the removal of it might prove its deſtruction, it is ſaved from the fate which it deſerves *.

* The doughty Knight, who is the object of this humorous alluſion, married the ſiſter of Lord F— —, and was appointed to his preſent employment in the laſt reign. Long experience muſt have given him ſome knowledge in his department, the duties whereof he has never failed to exerciſe with much diſſa-

CHASE P—, Eſquire.

THERE is no character ſo dangerous to ſociety, as that which poſſeſſes the art of making Folly pleaſing, and giving to Vice the ſemblance of Virtue. The human heart is woefully diſpoſed to deceive itſelf, and does not want the artificial aids of Corruption to encreaſe its natural propenſities to evil.

diſſatisfaction to all his inferiors. The virtues of his private life keep pace with thoſe of his public character. Some examples of niggardly avarice are upon record in the Tower of London, which will not be forgotten. He is now far advanced in life, and afflicted with bodily infirmities; but contrives to crawl down to the Houſe, when miniſterial apprehenſion requires his attendance.

The

The wiſdom of an antient Republic, ſo much celebrated for the rigours of its diſcipline, is ſaid to have eſtabliſhed the cuſtom of expoſing drunken ſlaves to the view of their youth, in order to impreſs on their tender minds an abhorrence of that degrading vice. This cuſtom was founded in reaſon and a correct knowledge of human nature; for, though the paſſage to Vice may be of eaſy deſcent, few have been known to attain, at one ſtep, the extremes of it. The idea of Crime is at firſt abhorrent to every mind; and it is by a gradual familiarity that the worſt of men have arrived at the laſt ſtage of their depravity. No one, perhaps,

has

has ſhuddered with a more alarming horror at the thought of Murder, than he who, in a courſe of guilty deeds, has at length intentionally committed that worſt of crimes. Whoever, therefore, is baſe enough to practiſe thoſe arts which looſen the bonds of Morality, who has dared to debauch the mind from its innocence, who has ſo ſkilfully blended the colours of Vice and Virtue, as to obſcure any diſtinction between them, and has exerted the powers of pleaſing to lull aſleep the admonitions of another's conſcience, is a traitor to Honour, to Virtue, to Society, and deſerves to be excluded from human intercourſe for ever.

A chear-

A chearful temper, a ready wit, a convivial diſpoſition, and pleaſing manners, joined to a knowledge of the world and an inſight into the weakneſs of human nature, is ſufficient to compoſe a character which may produce all this abundant miſchief. A perſon endued with theſe qualities, and devoid of honeſt principles, may give a wider extent to the progreſs of Corruption, than an whole race of bold and avowed profligates. Such a character, while he poſſeſſes the power of giving pleaſure to all, is particularly calculated to excite the envy, intoxicate the virtue, and win the confidence, of unſuſpicious Youth, who, aiming at the poſſeſſion of thoſe qualities which he admires, will

acquire

acquire the inſenſibility to what is truly good that lurks beneath them, and becomes, perhaps, a bankrupt in honour as well as in fortune, beyond every hope of recovery.

That *Ridicule is the teſt of Truth*, has been a favourite doctrine with a few viſionary men of great reputation; but the experience of every day is againſt it, and the knowledge of every reflecting man will give the ready lie to ſuch a flattering but deceitful hypotheſis †. Virtue

† The Comedy of *Ariſtophanes*, entitled *The Clouds*, could fix a ſevere ridicule upon the character of a Philoſopher, who was the pride of Antient Greece; and the reader of Monſieur de Voltaire's Works will feel the irreſiſtible power of humour without caution, and wit without principle.

may

may be laughed at with ſome degree of ſucceſs, even among men who are the votaries of it; and Ridicule may direct its ſhafts with ſuch unlucky ſkill againſt virtuous characters, by ſeizing the foible from which none are free, that the gravity of Age ſhall not be able to withhold a tranſient approbation, while the gaiety of Youth will give the hearty tribute of an unreflecting applauſe. But the miſchief extends far beyond an indiſcreet teſtimony to the fallacious merits of a wicked Wit; for no one will be hardy enough to deny, that, when once a man is in the habit of laughing at what is right, he is on the verge of doing any thing, and almoſt every thing, that is wrong.

It may be further obſerved, that men of Wit, being in general men of Vanity, are continually engaged in catching applauſe, and not only ſacrifice the rights of friendſhip, but will violate the principles of virtue, and even trample upon the duties of religion, to obtain their object. Beſides, the witty is ſometimes a profligate character, and will naturally exert the force of his talents againſt thoſe ſuperior qualifications in other men which are at enmity with his own. To aſſociate, therefore, with men of ſuch a complexion, is to ſupport a continual ſcorn of whatever is fair in reputation, amiable in manners, or honourable in life. I turn pale at the reflection, that men, who can gild

Infamy

Infamy with good-humour, and, by the power of their Wit, ſteal abhorrence from Vice and devotion from Virtue, find, in the corruption of the preſent times, encouragement, applauſe, and protection. I am not ſeduced by Fancy, or deluded by Conjecture; for the name of a Man to whom every obſervation I have written may be juſtly applied, is before me †.

Sir

† I ſhall not enlarge upon the good ſenſe of the foregoing reflections, but confirm them by a plagiariſm from the Notes of a Poem entitled *The World as It Goes*, by the Author of *The Diaboliad*; wherein the portrait of Mr. C— P—, according to the opinion of thoſe who knew him beſt, is correctly delineated. "This Gentleman was one of the "moſt extraordinary perſons who have lived "in the preſent times. He poſſeſſed conſi-

 "derable

Sir F—— N——.

IT is a misfortune of no ſmall magnitude, for any man to commit a public folly, or to be led

"derable abilities; his mind was endued
"with much uſeful as well as polite infor-
"mation, and he was remarkable for an un-
"common ſhare of that lively humour which
"is ſo eſſential to the character of a *boon*
"*companion*. But his peculiar and diſtin-
"guiſhing characteriſtic was a perfect know-
"ledge of mankind, which he exerciſed
"with a ſucceſs that, in our day at leaſt, has
"no example. The world at large was the
"volume which he made the continual ob-
"ject of his ſtudy; and, directing the whole
"force of his natural ſagacity to that point,
"he acquired a ſupreme inſight into human
"weakneſſes, and was thereby enabled ſo to
"apply the humorous flexibility of his own
"character, as to lead them to his purpoſe.
"This was his great and golden attribute;

"and

led into a public error, which may be ſeized to fix a ſtigma upon his character

" and by a judicious application of it to all " ranks and ſtations, he won every ſucceſs of " his life. By this talent he duped the pe- " netration, cunning, and avarice of *Lord* " *Bath*. By this talent he carried his elec- " tion for the county of *Radnor*, where he " had little or no property, and little or no " natural intereſt, againſt a Gentleman who " had a great ſhare of both. By this talent " he was enabled to dupe, or, to uſe a more " expreſſive term, to *humbug* all kinds of " perſons, from a Peer of the Realm to the " Waiter of a Bawdy-houſe, and, firſt or laſt, " to gain his point with them all. By the " ſame means, without having ever poſſeſſed " any conſiderable fortune, he contrived, for " many years, to bear himſelf upon a footing " with the richeſt men in the kingdom, in- " dulged himſelf in the expenſive turns of " the man of taſte, and in all the luxury of " the man of pleaſure, and left his family in " a ſtate of opulence, though he continually " lived, as he died, in a ſtate of inſolvency.

character that ſhall live in the minds and on the tongues of men. But the grievance muſt be greatly heightened, when it waits upon a man of ſuperior talents and profeſſional eminence, whoſe ſervice the State is ready to acknowledge, and willing to reward.

As far as the tranſient reputation of the day is concerned, a ſimple

"Since my acquaintance with this perſon, I "have no longer conſidered the *Sir John* "*Falſtaff* of *Shakeſpeare* to be a character of "invention, and out of nature, as many of "his Commentators have ſuppoſed. If a "due allowance be made for the difference of "times and circumſtances, this Gentleman "will be found to have been a very ſtriking "counterpart of that ſingular character.— "*Chaſe Price* was, undoubtedly, the *Falſtaff* "of the preſent age."

name

name or vulgar epithet is more injurious than a volume of damning proofs and recorded invectives. The latter would not be read by many, and the doctrines it contained would be controverted or believed, according to the partial or unfavourable prejudices of the reader. But an opprobrious title, a witty ſarcaſm, or a tuneful couplet, being within the power of every one's remembrance, would be generally known, univerſally repeated, and wantonly applied, by numbers who neither knew nor cared whether their origin could be traced to the invention of Malice or the ſeverity of Juſtice *.

* This is a very juſt obſervation. To a man whoſe object is the living poſſeſſion of

The ill-nature, envy, and perhaps the fears as well as neceſſities of mankind, have annexed ideas of ſcandal to certain profeſſions, diſtinct from the demerit of particular undeſerving individuals who help to compoſe them. The buſy craft of Law, the idle parade of Phyſic, and the ſtarch hypocriſy of

popular reputation, a nick-name of diſgraceful tendency is the moſt unlucky event that can befal him; as, however unmerited the offenſive title may be, it generally remains with him to the end of his life. An abbreviated, terſe, proverbial opinion, for very obvious reaſons, has its effect alſo upon things as well as men.—The purſuit of Oriental learning, in the laſt century, was almoſt entirely neglected, from a well-known couplet in the Poem of *Hudibras*:

"For Hebrew roots are often found
"To flouriſh moſt in barren ground."

Prieſt-

Prieſthood, ſeem, as it were, naturally to aſſociate with the ideas of all mankind. Indeed, many of their more artful profeſſors find themſelves in the continual neceſſity of acknowledging the univerſal opinion to be but too well founded, with the view to turn aſide ſome threatened ſarcaſm, or with the hopes that they may become exceptions from the general deſcription. But when a man has added to the uncommon unpopularity of his profeſſion the weight of perſonal ignominy, his ſituation, however advantageous or exalted, if he retains the leaſt degree of ſenſibility, muſt be embittered with continual and aggravating diſſatisfaction.

The

The great conſtitutional Officer and eminent Lawyer, whoſe character compoſes my preſent theme, is placed by popular opinion, though I believe with ſignal injuſtice, in a ſituation which particularly anſwers to the preceding deſcription. His great abilities are univerſally acknowledged, his profound knowledge in the laws of his country as generally confeſſed; and where is the man, within the period of Sir F— —'s practice, who, being under the painful neceſſity of applying to the aid of Law to obtain or defend his rights, has not been happy in ſecuring this able Advocate to ſupport his cauſe, or felt an afflicting diſappointment on finding him engaged on the ſide of his adver-

adverſary. The Courts in which he pleaded have been ſaid to pay a moſt uncommon deference to his opinion; and it has been a charge made by the enemies of the greateſt man in this kingdom, that, in his judicial character, he has been implicitly guided and governed by it†.

† On the celebrated trial, at Guildhall, between the *Scriveners' Company* and the *Attornies of London*, the late Mr. *Wilbraham* was ſubpœnaed as an evidence; and that pre-eminent judge of his profeſſion declared, that, from his obſervations on Mr. N— —'s abilities in the courſe of that day's buſineſs, he muſt pronounce him to be the ableſt *Niſi prius* Advocate he had ever known. He was certainly heard with great favour in the Court of —— ——; and there might be reaſons for ſuch a partiality which would not diſgrace the great Character who has been accuſed of exerciſing it.

If

If any accuſation, which ariſes from the violence of party, could juſtify aſtoniſhment, I ſhould acknowledge my ſurprize, that a circumſtance, which, if founded in fact, muſt by every ſerious mind be ſuppoſed to ariſe from the error of clerks, or the confuſion of multifarious practice, ſhould be ſo violently urged to ruin his reputation as an honeſt man and a fair practitioner of the Law *. I have ever found

* Every one knows the common-place accuſation againſt this great Lawyer, for having taken briefs on both ſides of a cauſe, and availed himſelf of the knowledge which he acquired by ſuch an artifice, in favour of the perſon he finally eſpouſed, without returning the fee he had received from the deſerted party. For my own part, I cannot ſuppoſe that a Gentleman in the higheſt rank of his profeſ-

found him zealous and faithful, as a ſervant of the Crown; and it is my honeſt

profeſſion, to whom no common ſum could have been a bribe, ſhould riſk an eternal diſhonour upon his name, for the ſake of a few guineas, in a cauſe of no uncommon intereſt, and in which he had no more than a profeſſional concern. If, therefore, the ſuppoſed fact had exiſtence, it muſt have ariſen from a ſimilar cauſe to that which has been ſuggeſted above, and eagerly ſeized by the exaggerating ſpirit of the popular party, to degrade the character of a Lawyer, who was accuſed of having given opinions too favourable to the Royal Prerogative, and a ſuppoſed encroaching tyrannical ſpirit in the Adminiſtration of that day.——That I may not appear to offer an idle defence of a man for whom I do not poſſeſs any partiality, I muſt beg leave to ſuggeſt the execration that attended upon his name from the anti-miniſterial party of the Corporation of London, when he delivered an opinion, that the Election of Mr. *Wilkes* to be Alderman of Farringdon Ward was illegal,—and to compare

it

honeſt opinion, that the important and very honourable office he now enjoys,

it with the language of the late vote of the City's freedom in a gold box, propoſed by the very ſame party, as a reward for his official addreſs to the Throne, on the augmentation of the Civil Liſt, and payment of the ——'s debts. If his preſent friends and former enemies conſidered the manner of diſcharging his duty on this occaſion to have been adopted with a view to bully Adminiſtration into a compliance with certain views which have ſince been completely fruſtrated, the vote of Common-Council was founded on factious principles, and will be a laſting diſgrace to that corporate body. If, on the contrary, they regarded a ſpirited, upright act of duty in a man whom they had believed to be hoſtile to the rights of the people, as an *atoning* change of conduct, and therefore deſerving of encouragement and applauſe, the vote of honour was, in reality, a diſgrace to the object of it.— But, be that as it may, Party ſeems to be too much at the bottom of their former abuſe,

as

enjoys, was well beſtowed upon his ſuperior merit *.

G——

as well as their preſent approbation. It appears, indeed, that Sir F— — was of the ſame opinion; for, though he accepted the proffered freedom of London, he could not be induced to receive the golden bauble which was deſtined to incloſe the parchment that conferred it.

* The hiſtory of Sir F— —'s N— —'s profeſſional life is well known, and would comprehend too long a period to juſtify the inſertion of it in this Work. I cannot, however, quit the ſubject without making an obſervation upon the preſent change in his ſituation, and the diſappointment of his ambition. He is related to have offered ſo groſs an inſult to the Chief-Juſtice of the Court wherein he pleaded, as to convert a firm and partial friend into a moſt powerful enemy, during whoſe life he cannot have the faintеſt hopes of riſing to the Peerage—the grand object of his ardent wiſhes.—The game he played at the cloſe of the laſt Seſſion

G— H—, Eſquire.

ON my enquiries after the conduct and character of a particular perſon, I have ſometimes been informed that the object of my curioſity is an independent Country Gentleman.

Dependence and Independence are among the many terms of language which daily and hourly find a miſapplication in the uſe of an

ſion of the laſt Parliament did not ſucceed. In the language of Gameſters, the *knowing-one* was taken in. But I ſhall never attribute to the ſuperior virtue of his enemies, or of the times, that he is neither Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, Chief Juſtice of the Common Pleas, or a Peer of the Realm.

unre-

unreflecting multitude. I ſincerely wiſh that every man who reaſons upon public characters, would recollect, that *logical Preciſion* is eſſential to *political* Definition *.

* In the moſt ſtrict and decided meaning of the word, Mr. G—— H—— is an *independent* Country Gentleman; that is, a man who inflexibly purſues the line of conduct which he thinks to be moſt beneficial to his country, free from the influence of any party, or the leaſt deſire of place, penſion, contract, or title. He profeſſes himſelf a friend to the Britiſh Conſtitution; and has proved his right to that character, by ſupporting, in the county of *Cornwall*, the nomination of a Majority of *Freeholders* againſt a Majority of the *Landed Property*, though he himſelf forms a very conſiderable part of the latter.

G———l C——.

IT ſometimes happens that eminent talents and pure integrity are loſt to the public ſervice of ſociety, from the want of a leading, primary quality of mind, which alone can give them their due motion and effective energy. A General may be endowed with all the courage neceſſary to Military Life;—he may poſſeſs that active zeal for the welfare of his country which diſtinguiſhes the patriot;—he may boaſt that love of fame which is the conſtant inmate of noble minds;—and to all theſe ſplendid qualities he may add a perfect knowledge of the theory and general practice of war.

war :—but, if he does not poſſeſs a quickneſs of diſcernment which nothing can eſcape, and a preſence of mind to ſeize the inſtant advantage which offers itſelf to his penetration, he is qualified for little more than to direct the military raree-ſhows of peace, or to employ his talents at the command of ſuperior genius. The pre-eminent honours of War will never grace his name.

A Politician may be profound in the ſcience of Government ;--he may be verſed in the hiſtory of all periods, and well acquainted with the intereſts of all nations, with reſpect to themſelves as well as their relations to each other ;—he may be

deeply ſkilled in all the perplexity of finance;—poſſeſs eloquence to perſuade, and judgment to decide;—he may add to theſe rare attainments the pureſt patriotiſm and the moſt conſummate integrity:—but, if at the ſame time he has not magnanimity to conceive, patience to execute, and a ſpirit to inſpire ſubordinate duty, he may, indeed, be a ſage Counſellor of the State, but he is not qualified to direct the helm of any Empire.

Human nature drags along its conſtant load of infirmities. The nobleſt minds feel their influence; and the greateſt men poſſeſs them in common with the leaſt; but it is their happineſs, that they do not inter-

interrupt thoſe qualities which make them great. *Marlborough* had his domeſtic foibles; but they were forgotten when he led the armies of his country to glory. Lord *Chatham* might be troubled with failings as a Man, but he had none as a Miniſter. And though, in the ſcenes of private œconomy, the late Earl of *Hardwicke* did not appear to an adequate advantage; Perfection, as it were, ſurrounded him, when, placed on the ſeat of Judicature, he aſſumed the awful form and attributes of Juſtice.

This Honourable Gentleman and accompliſhed Officer is of a different and leſs fortunate character. His prevailing weakneſs holds an imme-

diate enmity with all his eminent virtues, and debilitates their energy. An indecisive temper of mind is the foe of his whole life, and the bane of his public reputation *.

Lord C—.

THE life of this noble Lord affords an awful lesson to those who ardently aspire after

* General C— — is the best theoretic Officer in his Majesty's service. But it has been ludicrously observed of this Honourable Gentleman, that he would be very unfortunate to find himself in a room wherein there should be two doors that opened to the same apartment, as he would be absolutely tortured with a difficulty of deciding through which of them he should finally pass.

wealth

wealth and honours. He is a great and, which is the ſame thing, a fortunate General. But the riches he has acquired, and the titles he has obtained, have it not in their power to baniſh gloom from his brow and diſcontent from his heart. Whether his clouded aſpect proceeds from the pangs of reflection, the preſſures of diſeaſe, or conſtitutional habit, I do not know; nor ſhall I offer a conjecture on the occaſion. I am not diſpoſed to judge unfavourably of a man who has encreaſed the glory of his country *.

* This nobleman is ſince dead, and the melancholy manner of his death ſeems to give ſome degree of juſtification to the unfavourable opinion which many have entertained

Lord M— —.

MAN was not made for a ſtate of inactivity, or even of uſeleſs induſtry. The higheſt rank, and

tertained of his life.—His Lordſhip had been for ſome time at *Bath*, under a regimen for reducing the enormous quantities of opium which he had gradually brought his conſtitution to bear; and when this object was, in a great degree, effected, the Phyſicians abſolutely forbid his taking the waters, and adviſed his return to *London*. On his arrival there, *Doctor Fothergill*, whom he immediately conſulted, blamed his conduct in the moſt expreſs terms, and preſcribed his inſtant return to *Bath*, ſtrongly recommending the waters of that place, as the only means of relief. Thus buffeted about by his different phyſicians, and concluding, from their conduct towards him, that his caſe would not admit

and moſt profuſe wealth, cannot juſtify their poſſeſſor in the mere appropriate

mit of any remedy, he reſolved to obviate the lingering approaches of death, by the fatal application of his own hand.

To declare him innocent of every charge which has been brought againſt him, would be too great a ſacrifice of truth to the feelings of friendſhip; but that he was guilty of every crime, which the accuſing ſpirit of his enemies have laid to his charge, thoſe very enemies did not believe.—During his adminiſtration in *India*, Injuſtice and Oppreſſion were not aſleep; but Victory was awake. Lord C— reſtored the affairs, and extended the limits, of the Britiſh Territories in the Eaſtern world; and though there might be moments when he gratified his deſire of wealth, the occaſions were more frequent when he repreſſed it. The Hiſtory of the capture of *Maxadavad*, into which opulent and populous city he entered the triumphant maſter of all its immenſe treaſures, will afford an example of his moderation which

ſhould

propriate employments of the ſtation which he inherits, or wherein his fortune has placed him. It is not ſufficient that in the ſummer he builds houſes, decorates apartments, forms plantations, and beautifies his domain; or that, in the winter, he buys virtu, employs artiſts, and attends the public places of elegant amuſement. Even if it may be ſuppoſed that Vice does not mingle with his pleaſures and avocations, they are not ſufficient to juſtify him in

ſhould not be forgotten, when any vices of his life are remembered. After all, the public good of this Nobleman's life appears to have greatly exceeded it's private evil. Parliament exculpated him from the crimes of which he was accuſed, and voted an acknowledgment of the ſervices he had rendered to his country.

the eye of Reaſon. To acquire real honour, and ſecure an acknowledged conſequence of his character, he muſt not paſs his days in opulent indolence, in the recreations of taſte, or the enjoyment of ſplendor, but direct his faculties, activity, and perſonal conſequence to objects which may be of a more real utility to his country. He ſhould not forget, amid the pride of rank, the elegance of faſhion, and the bounties of fortune, thoſe ſolemn demands which Society has a right to make upon him, nor check the conviction that a compliance with them forms the honourable duties of a citizen.

A life, whoſe object is the crown of Honour, muſt not be wholly paſſed

paſſed in the enervating luxury of ſplendid palaces, amid the grateful fragrance of roſeate bowers, or on the verdant margin of murmuring fountains. It is only in the ſeaſon of repoſe from toil that the reflecting mind will approve ſuch refined gratifications. When the applauſive period of active duty is paſt, the noble citizen may walk beneath his Attic portico, and look with pleaſure on the ſtoned entablature, rich with the recorded deeds of men who have won their arduous way to fame. Nor ſhall he be inſenſible to the pleaſing reflection that his own actions may form the decorative ornaments of many an edifice, which ſhall be raiſed by the wealth and taſte of future ages.

The

The Army, Navy, and Civil Departments of the State, invite the ingenuous and active Youth of noble birth to a manly exertion of their talents, by a diſplay of thoſe paths which lead to preſent honour and future renown. I contemplate, with a moſt affecting pleaſure, the noble Youth, who, turning aſide from the diſſipation too common to his age, enters, with zeal, into ſome active line of public life, and looks for a confirmation of thoſe honours which he received as an inheritance, and feels an aſſurance of future fame, in his endeavours to promote the proſperity of his country.

This noble Lord, from his earlieſt youth, has been ſeriouſly engaged

in

in a profeſſion wherein he has acquired conſummate ſkill, and from whence I may venture to foretel that he will reap new acquiſitions of reputation. His life is a paſſing ſcene of active utility : —whether at home or abroad, upon the Seas or in the Senate, he is ever engaged in the duty of an active Officer, or a public Citizen.—My hearty approbation waits upon him ;—and I truſt that his country will not prove ungrateful *.

* Lord M——, being elected, by mere chance, to repreſent the city of L— —, began his political career on the principles of parliamentary independence. He was particularly active in oppoſing the Miniſtry on the buſineſs of the *Middleſex* election ; and did not confine his talents to the Senate, but employed his pen, on that occaſion, in a pamphlet

phlet of no inconſiderable merit.—At the ſucceeding election he was a Candidate for *Newcaſtle*, where he took an oath, in caſe he ſhould be choſen, to propoſe or ſupport certain popular queſtions in Parliament againſt the very Adminiſtration with which he is, at this moment, ſo cloſely united.—In this attempt he failed of ſucceſs, and, having been neglected by Oppoſition, he contrived to make his peace with Lord S——, who, having employed him in an idle voyage to make diſcoveries in the North Seas, brought him, by his intereſt, into Parliament, recommended him to a ſeat at the Admiralty Board, and, in return, he is become an able advocate for his Patron in the Houſe of Commons. He poſſeſſes ſtrong, manly abilities. His nautical ſkill is generally acknowledged, and his bravery is unimpeached. But the character of the Man does not keep pace with the reputation of the Officer, or the ability of the Senator. His manners are unpleaſing; his mind is not ſoftened by any amiable ſenſibility; and he has little to boaſt from the eſteem of private friendſhip.

J—

J— S— — —, Eſquire.

THIS Gentleman makes a very genteel bow, and poſſeſſes the art of ſmiling in perfection *.

* How far Mr. S— — —'s bows and ſmiles may have availed him, I do not know; but I believe there is a ſubſtantial virtue in that Gentleman's character which does not entirely depend upon the aid of external qualifications. In the county where he lives, and in the city which he repreſents, he poſſeſſes a degree of perſonal independent influence, ſuperior to almoſt any other man in any city or in any county. At a late canvaſs for H— — — among its very numerous electors, he received but one refuſal. Mr. S— — — votes, uniformly, againſt the preſent Miniſtry; and though he may, perhaps, ſmile upon them, they are not, I believe, diſpoſed to return the compliment.

The

The Right Honourable

W——— G—— H———.

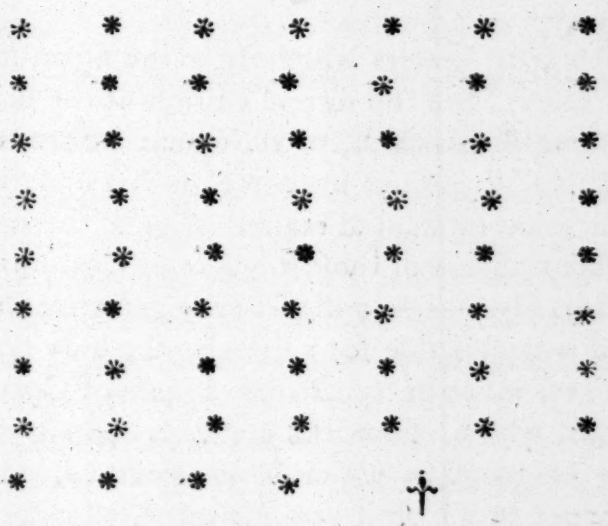
Cloſe at the *public* ear, familiar toad,
Half froth, half venom, ſpits himſelf abroad.

WE are commanded by that Authority before which all ſhould bend, to love thoſe who hate us; but even the precepts of religion may admit of ſome qualification, and it cannot be an offence againſt the purity of Heaven, to poſſeſs a deteſtation of the dark malice of a malignant heart. An open enemy is, at leaſt, a generous one, whoſe vengeance, if the means of conciliation ſhould fail, the object of it may be prepared to meet, or find

an opportunity to avoid: but the cowardly, aſſaſſinating ſpirit of ſecret injury, whoſe arrow flieth by night, waits for the unſuſpicious, unguarded moment to make its attack; and, having done the projected miſchief, retires to the diſmal obſcurity which ſhrouds it alike from obſervation and from purſuit, Hence, innocence is blackened, virtue debaſed, and honour ſullied:—hence, falſe rumours are ſpread abroad, public diſcontent engendered, and authorities deſpiſed; while the ſecret engine of this evil, not daring to meet the vengeance of inſulted honour, and, with a ſubtle cunning, preſerving its courſe within the boundaries of law, continues to ſpit forth the fabricated venom into

a world

a world too well diſpoſed to receive and propagate the poiſon. But ſuch diabolic malignity muſt finally recoil upon itſelf, and writhe under the agonizing reflection, that it cannot communicate to others the tythe of its own wretchedneſs.



Lord

† This Right Honourable Gentleman is ſuppoſed, by many, to be the author of the

 celebrated

Lord P— —.

IT is a teſtimony of no ſmall value to a man of honeſt principles, when, in the degrading catalogue

celebrated Letters which bear the ſignature of *Junius*. See the ſecond edition of the firſt volume of this work, p. 18, where the reader will find a curious anecdote on this ſubject, and ſome ſubſtantial reaſons aſſigned for the diſcontinuance of thoſe ſingular publications.

Mr. H— — — poſſeſſes very great talents, and is remarkable for a ſpeech, the only one he ever made in the *Britiſh* Houſe of Commons, which, from the matter it contained, the language in which it was cloathed, and manner in which it was delivered, aſtoniſhed every hearer, and was conſidered as a *chef d'œuvre* of ability and eloquence. His ſubſequent, continual ſilence is not eaſily underſtood; nor can it be ſuppoſed to proceed, as ſome have imagined, from an apprehenſion of not

logue of bad men, in the claſs to which he belongs, he finds his name expreſſed as an honoured and univerſal exception. He who has reſiſted temptations which few, if any beſides himſelf, have had the courage to reſiſt, and has walked upright where numbers have ſtumbled, deſerves the veneration of mankind, as a character of ſuperior virtue.

not being able to ſupport the reputation he had acquired; for, when he was Secretary to the Duke of N———, as Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, he exerted himſelf with great activity and adequate talents, in every mode and period of debate, in the Parliament of that Kingdom.—He is at preſent a Member of our Houſe of Commons, and gives his ſilent vote to Oppoſition. His private life is not marked with any ſtriking ſingularity, but is paſſed in the Society of choſen and reſpectable friends.

It has ever been my opinion that Oriental Governors ſhould be conſidered and judged with a more favourable attention to circumſtances than could be generally, or perhaps reaſonably, allowed to ſuch as are appointed to European employments. The low origin of many of them, —the certain aſſurance of making a fortune, which every adventurer to India bears in his mind,—the common fatality of the climate,—the ready means of becoming rich,—the natural deſire of returning to their native country,—and the natural, never-ceaſing wiſh to enjoy the fruits of their labours, their riſques, and their fortune, ere the age of enjoyment is paſt, ſhould be circumſtances of ſerious con-

conſideration to every man, before he determines, with ſeverity, upon the conduct of thoſe who bring back with them the wealth of India.

I do not mean to juſtify rapacious cruelty, or to encourage injuſtice in any clime or in any ſituation; but the judge of human actions ſhould remember, in his judgment, the infirmities of human nature, and examine the tenor of his own mind, as well as the ſtrength of his own virtue, before he paſſes a rigid ſentence on the errors of other men, who may have yielded to temptations which he himſelf might not have been able to withſtand.

It is, however, a ſatisfaction not eaſily expreſſed, that the Noble Lord, whoſe name is before me, returned from his government in *India* with an unſullied reputation. The uſe he has ſince made of his ſplendid fortune, proves a goodneſs of heart and integrity of principle, that mark the honourable means by which he acquired it *.

Sir

* Lord P— — has enjoyed a degree of general reſpect and eſtimation, which has not always waited upon thoſe who have returned to Europe laden with Eaſtern riches. The noble ſettlements, to a very great amount, which he immediately made, in the moſt generous manner, on every branch of his family, more than juſtify the excellent character which has been given of him. His private virtues have added a moſt extenſive tribute of private friendſhip to the flattering reward of public approbation. That he had been an able and honeſt Servant of the Eaſt-India

Sir G—— C——.

THE deſire of graſping at enormous wealth, from the mere vanity of being accounted

India Company, was moſt honourably teſtified in his laſt appointment to the Government of *Madras*. He did not offer himſelf as a Candidate till a few days before the election; ſo that many of his friends, ignorant of his Lordſhip's intention, were already engaged to ſupport Mr. R——, who, beſides a conſiderable perſonal and party intereſt, had the whole weight of Adminiſtration with him: nevertheleſs, ſuch was the public opinion in favour of Lord P——, that, in ſpite of all theſe diſadvantages, he was choſen to the office he ſollicited. What has ſince followed is too well known. That worthy Nobleman fell a ſacrifice to a conſpiracy formed in *India*, and proved in *Weſtminſter-Hall*; for which enormous offence the Court of King's-Bench puniſhed each of the wealthy criminals by *a fine of one thouſand pounds*.

rich,

rich, and receiving the incenſe of external reſpect and univerſal envy which is offered to great wealth, is a ſpecies of avarice equally deſpicable with, and of more injurious conſequences to ſociety than, the artificial penury of the hoarding miſer. The latter, taken in a mere perſonal relation, is no one's enemy but his own; and the only public injury which can be aſcribed to him, ariſes from a falſe, miſtaken ſelfiſhneſs, which prevents his little rivulet of wealth from joining the general flood of circulation; while the former holds forth to public view a picture of expence mingled with beggary, of pride ſhackled with meanneſs, of an occaſional

moment's

moment's ill applied profuſion followed by penurious repentance. But this is not all: the grief extends beyond his own perſonal diſgrace, and oftentimes involves thoſe in ruin by whom ruin was not merited. Acquiſition of wealth is his object: he would, therefore, prefer profitable employments to titles, and odious monopolies to the fair and honourable ſpirit of commerce. When he awakes into enterprize, he conſiders no one but himſelf, nor has the leaſt regard for the diſappointment, and perhaps eſſential injury, occaſioned to others by the ſucceſs of his own projects: and if, by a too eager deſire of graſping at every thing, he ſhould fail in his deſigns, and ſink into

nothing,

nothing, he weeps but for his own undoing, nor reflects a moment on the miſerable lot of many better men than himſelf, whom his ardent, premature rapacity may have involved in one common ruin.

This unfortunate diſpoſition is almoſt always joined to a cunning, which Lord Bacon emphatically names a crooked or left-handed wiſdom;—a vice (for I can give it no other title) which may ſucceed for a time, but never holds out to the end. It does not poſſeſs ſufficient ſolidity to laſt long; and, though occaſional applications of it may be crowned with ſucceſs, whoever reſts upon it as a ſtable quality, will be overtaken by the day

day of bitter diſappointment, when the ſucceſſive advantages it may have acquired will vaniſh at once, and leave him in abſolute ruin, amazed at himſelf, reproached by thouſands, and pitied by none *.

Sir

* Theſe obſervations, though ſomewhat deſultory, and not extended to the length which ſuch a ſubject required, are very applicable to the wretched Baronet whoſe name precedes them. This man was not contented with a clear income of twenty-one thouſand pounds per annum; but, anxious to encreaſe his immenſe wealth by a ſhameful monopoly of articles which were not to be monopoliſed, he is reduced to a ſituation which made it neceſſary for his ſupport to apply to the Eaſt-India Company, over whom he once reigned with an almoſt abſolute power, for an annuity of two hundred pounds. Upon this pittance, and his Lady's pin-money, he now ſubſiſts, in a petty town of France, with his uſual reputation.

The power and conſequence which this man

Sir L—— D——.

THIS worthy Baronet may be claſſed with thoſe adventurers in life who have taken the tide

man had acquired, without any other talents than a low, pitiful cunning, and in the daily commiſſion of miſerable ſhifts and artifices which would have diſgraced a pickpocket, is an example what wealth will effect, though unaccompanied with any real virtue or eminent power of underſtanding. The fall of Mr. F——, and the ſhock which at that period threatened the credit of London, was owing to his manœuvres in the trading company over which he at that time preſided. But he did not long exult in his triumph; for the iron hand of Adverſity ſoon pulled him from his height, and found him in a ſtate of inſenſibility, which has helped to turn the natural pity of mankind into contempt and deteſtation.

of

of human affairs at the height which leads on to fortune. A rare variety of lucky circumſtances, which he neither did nor could foreſee, has made him rich beyond his utmoſt expectations, and even the moſt fanciful ardour of his early wiſhes.

In the progreſs of State concerns, diſappointment and failure might be attended with conſequences of ſuch univerſal grievance, that Miniſters are neceſſarily obliged to renounce the rigid prudence ſo neceſſary in private affairs, in order to ſecure an infallible execution of their deſigns. Thus, in national regulations, rewards are held forth, which are more than adequate to the actions they are intended to inſpire;

ſpire; ſalaries are annexed to employments beyond the labour and abilities neceſſary to fulfil them; and profits are ſuffered to ariſe from contracts made for the national ſervice, ſuperior to thoſe which are found in the ordinary courſe of commerce.

The amiable theoriſt may talk of diſintereſted patriotiſm and uncorrupted virtue; and I would not be ſo unjuſt to human nature, as to ſuppoſe that they are viſionary ideas:—but, from the hiſtory of mankind in all ages and nations of the world, it is too evident, that the ruling paſſions of men muſt be made the engines whereby they are governed, and from a wiſe direction

whereof

whereof they are to be led to proſperity and glory. Vanity and Intereſt are the two leading features of the human character; and he who forms a code of laws which ſhall contain the wiſeſt rules for modifying and directing thoſe paſſions to the general good, is the moſt able Legiſlator; while he who can apply them in the moſt ſuitable manner to anſwer the particular purpoſes of public proſperity, deſerves the character of the moſt able Stateſman.

I have ever regarded with an unfavourable prejudice the wealth of thoſe men who have grown rich from the diſtreſſes of their country. They may be neceſſary evils; but

ſtill they are evils which ſpring from a diſtempered State. In every wiſe Government, Peace is Health, and War is Diſeaſe, whether it be that of attack, of defence, or protection; for though, when founded in juſtice, it may ſave thoſe who adviſed and conducted it from reproach, its immediate effects are the ſame to the people, who are obliged to bear its burdens, as if it ſprung from the inconſiderate impulſe of pride and ambition.

A ſtate of war is, at beſt, a ſtate of convulſion and unnatural exertion. Indeed, like ſome diſeaſes, incident to the human body, which leave the conſtitution they have afflicted in poſſeſſion of renewed, and even

even augmented ſtrength, it may ſometimes acquire an added portion of political advantage. Nevertheleſs, its general effects, like thoſe of corporeal diſeaſes, will be loſs of ſtrength, and incapacity;—while its relapſes, like theirs, will, finally, bring on premature old-age and final diſſolution.

That Contractors with Government, eſpecially thoſe who are concerned in the ſupply of an army in the field, ſhould be enabled to execute their engagements with little or no riſque, perhaps with a certainty of gain, is abſolutely neceſſary, for the reaſons already given; but, when their profits are enormous, and great fortunes grow, as

it were, inſtantly out of their employments, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that in the original arrangement of the buſineſs there has been either ignorance, neglect, or corruption.—There may have been, perhaps, ſome few exceptions from this general rule,—and I am diſpoſed to believe that Sir L— — D— — is one of them *.

R— —

* This Gentleman was or had been in the wine trade, when he offered to contract for ſupplying the forces in *Germany*, during the laſt war, with forage, &c. but, though he was the perſon who propoſed to undertake the buſineſs upon the moſt reaſonable terms, he would not have been employed, if he had not threatened to expoſe the tranſaction to the world. Every one is acquainted with the fortunate circumſtances, which, without any colluſive practices on his ſide or that of the Miniſtry, combined to put half a million ſterling

R— — M— —, Eſquire.

I WILL frankly acknowledge, that, on this man's taking his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, I ſhuddered

ſterling into his pocket, when the height of his expectations did not exceed a tenth part of that enormous ſum.—The Contractor being now elevated into the claſs of the moſt wealthy commoners in *Great Britain*, he purchaſed large eſtates in all the three kingdoms, furniſhed his houſes with great elegance and ſplendor, adorned his parks, ſecured a powerful parliamentary intereſt, and indulged in all the pleaſures of a luxurious hoſpitality. But the old Latin adage,—*Creſcit amor nummi quantum ipſa pecunia creſcit*, —found, in the wealthy Baronet, a very ſtriking, and, as it threatened to prove, a very fatal example. In an endeavour to double his fortune by a Game at Stock-jobbing, the whole was brought into imminent dan-

dered throughout my frame.—That worſe men have had and ſtill poſſeſs a place in the Senate is not to be denied; but there is ſomething ſo baſe in the profeſſion by which he has been enriched, that it muſt forever place him with all his wealth at the tail of Society, and cauſe every rational mind to conſider the Parliamentary dignity of Great

ger; and there was a moment when he had actually ſecured an annuity of three thouſand pounds, or at leaſt was on the point of doing it, as the wreck of his great poſſeſſions, with which he intended to retire to the Continent for the reſt of his days: but, by the zeal of his numerous friends, and a favourable gleam of his former fortune, he was enabled to weather the danger that menaced him, but not without ſuſtaining a loſs which would have ruined a man of common affluence.

Britain

Britain with leſs reſpect ſince Mr. M— — 's admiſſion to it *.

He

* There is a miſtake in the term;—it ſhould be Mr. M— —'s *purchaſe* of it.—When a commodity is to be ſold, I cannot perceive any impropriety or impertinence in the man, whatever his rank may be, who has the money, and chuſes to buy it.—If the corruption of the times is ſuch, as to admit of expoſing to ſale the employments, honours, and dignities of the ſtate, the wealthy, without diſtinction, will exerciſe their right to become purchaſers, and are ſeldom known to give leſs than their value: a wiſe man perhaps may think they pay a great deal more.—There is ſuch an eſſential difference between an upright and a fallen Senate,—between an age of public virtue and a period of public corruption,—that it is idle, in the laſt degree, to uſe reaſonings drawn from the one, in application to the other.—There was a time, when Mr. M— — would not have found admiſſion into a Britiſh Senate, becauſe Seats in Parliament were not then to be procured by money, and public gaming-

He is, however, generally allowed to have made his former employment as reſpectable as the nature of it would admit; and that, ſince his reſignation of it, he has conducted himſelf with great modeſty and good ſenſe, never aſſuming any idle pretenſions, from the very great and extraordinary change in his ſituation. Be this as it may, his underſtanding would not have received any imputation in the opi-

houſes, thoſe nurſeries of every vice, did not exiſt, or at leaſt did not receive the favourable protection of the rich and great. But, in the preſent ſtate of national manners and characters, I profeſs a clear opinion, that the gameſter who wins a fortune, the dupe who loſes one, and an inferior miniſter of a gaming-table, who finds his gleanings between them, and others like them, are all *equally* qualified to compoſe a part of the repreſentative wiſdom of this country.

nion

nion of mankind, if he had retreated from parliamentary diſtinctions; nor does the manner in which he attained them give any additional proof of his reputed good ſenſe, or confer any additional honour on the repreſentative character of his country *.

* This perſon was elected into Parliament, by the intereſt of Lord O——, in order to cancel a debt.—He is at this time a conſiderable dealer in money, and is not ſuppoſed to be without ſome miniſterial job or contract. —Mr. M——'s original ſeems to be no longer the object of a malicious remembrance; his conduct is marked with great decency; he lives in a ſtile of ſuperior comfort; and the Gentlemen of his neighbourhood in *Hampſhire*, all declare that *Bob* is a worthy, obliging, and inoffenſive man.

Sir J— C— —.

THE inquiſitive and impertinent world will not know, perhaps, what this Gentleman is worth till he dies :—a laſt will and teſtament may be able to determine the matter. At preſent, he ſeems to be one of thoſe bold commercial adventurers, whoſe fluctuating wealth may make themſelves to-day, and leave them beggars to-morrow *.

J—

* When a man appears, on a ſudden, in the great world, and ſhines forth at once a ſtar of the firſt magnitude, in whatever ſphere he may be ſeen to move, it is natural for public curioſity to enquire from what ſource he derives his luſtre.—There are, perhaps, few perſons whoſe track has been more cloſely followed by curious enquirers than that of this active

J— D— —, Eſquire.

IT may be diſcovered, without any great force of political ſagacity, that a free government cannot exiſt without parties of ſome kind or other. It may, perhaps, be added with truth, that they are, in a great degree, neceſſary to freedom. The hiſtory of all ſtates in every period of the world, where Liberty has been a leading feature of the Conſti-

active Baronet. His ſplendid manner of living attracted the notice of all, and the wonder of ſome who ſhook their heads at the ſhow.—The apprehenſions of the latter ſeem to have been prophetic; for, after a few years of ſumptuous life, when this commercial projector rivalled the elegant profuſion of nobility itſelf, the gawdy ſcene at once paſſed away, and has left little more than a wreck behind.

tution,

tution, will manifeſt the accuracy of theſe poſitions.—Difference of intereſts, in the leaſt as well as moſt extended ſenſe of the expreſſion, will not fail to beget diverſity of ſentiments; and in a country where men may declare, in general, what they think, and may diſcover what they intend or wiſh to do, without any apprehenſion of political danger, there muſt be, in the natural courſe of things, oppoſing bodies of men. They are found to exiſt in the country town as well as in the capital, in the veſtry, in the cabinet, and in every intermediate diſtrict and juriſdiction from the narrow limits of the Hamlet to the State and Nation at large.—The Ruler of a Village finds a living ſpirit

of

of oppoſition to his deſigns, as well as the Ruler of a People.

It ſeems to be as neceſſary to guard againſt the wickedneſs of corporate bodies as that of individuals, and the neceſſity increaſes in proportion to the power which demands controul*. It might be

* Political wiſdom commands a far more jealous attention to public bodies, than it ſuppoſes neceſſary to any individual, but in ſome rare and particular exigence or ſituation. Among a crowd of reaſons, which ſuggeſt themſelves upon the occaſion, I ſhall only obſerve, that men are ſeen daily to conſent, in their corporate capacity, to opinions as well as actions, which, in their private character, they would bluſh to acknowledge and be afraid to commit.—There is a ſelf-deceiving ſophiſtry which may be diſcovered in the records of every corporation in the kingdom, from the Senate to a Turnpike Commiſſion.

dangerous,

dangerous, at any time, for the leading men in a free State to meet with little or no oppoſition; but to be without apprehenſion of any check whatever, at a period of great national proſperity, is a ſituation in which no man, or ſet of men, ought to be truſted. The Love of Power has ſo often prevailed over the moſt reſolute public Virtue, that a confidence in the latter ſhould never be indulged beyond certain limitations. The decline and fall of the antient republics will furniſh ample materials to illuſtrate the almoſt irreſiſtible impulſe of that ambition which has ſhaken, to their foundations, the temples of political and civil Freedom.

In

In times of great national glory, when the unſuſpicious minds of a whole people are occupied in the contemplation, the promotion, or the enjoyment of their proſperity, and when thoſe who govern may, beneath the glare of public ſucceſſes, endeavour to undermine the ſtrength of the Conſtitution,—a party who, at ſuch a period, oppoſes the adminiſtering powers of the State, watches their conduct with never ceaſing attention, and gives the alarm of any evil deſigns to the people, whatever may be its motives, is a great national bleſſing. But it is not the Nation alone who are intereſted to ſupport ſuch a body of men,—the Prince himſelf ſhould privately encourage it. A popular, ambitious, unprin-

unprincipled Miniſter may be as troubleſome to his Maſter as he is dangerous to the People; and any check that can keep ſuch a character in due bounds, is a deſirable circumſtance for every part of the State. The Stateſman who has, by any means, procured the ready, unequivocal confidence of his fellow-ſubjects, may feel a diſpoſition to gratify an imperious mind, in dictating to his Sovereign *.

But a period may arrive when the

* I could name ſeveral very reſpectable Senators, who, without any perſonal or political ill-will to the Adminiſtrations of their day, have generally voted in Parliament againſt them, from a principle that Miniſters ought never to be free from apprehenſions of an active Oppoſition.

national intereſt requires an union of all parties to one common object. A war with ſuperior enemies, or any ſignal public calamity, from whatever cauſe it may ariſe, demands the immediate extinction of all general animoſity. When danger threatens a ſtate, all jealouſy will ſubſide in every patriot boſom. Enemies muſt then join with friends, and friends with enemies, to give force, energy, and effect, to the operations of Government.—Any ſet of men, therefore, who employ their influence, their fortune, and their talents, to calumniate, diſtract, and impede the proceedings of Government, in a time of great public danger,—encourage the enemies of their coun-

try, and deſerve the execration of every good citizen *.

* A private party is formed by the followers of a rich, powerful, and, perhaps, able individual, who are to adopt the principles, as well as ſhare the honours and diſgrace, of their leader. A factious party, at large, is compoſed of ſeveral private parties, who join their ſeparate powers to drive Miniſters from that ſituation which they themſelves languiſh to attain. The court party acts upon the principles of keeping, as long as they can, thoſe envied privileges and emoluments which they are ſo fortunate as to poſſeſs. Theſe may be denominated in the vulgar but comprehenſive deſcription of *Ins* and *Outs*.—But there may be, as there has been, a national party, which conſiſts of men who always retain ſome degree of national principle, and are never without ſome regard for the Conſtitution. They may be ſurprized or tranſported, eſpecially during the heat of conteſt, into meaſures of long and fatal conſequences. They may be carried on, for a certain time, and to a certain point, by the luſts of vengeance and of power, in order

A party formed upon ſuch principles is the greateſt evil that can befal any State; and it is a melancholy and mortifying reflection, that the faithful hiſtorian of theſe times will find it his office to declare, that to ſuch a party Mr. D— — gave the powerful weight of his ſuperior knowledge and abilities *.

order to wreck the one upon their adverſaries, and to ſecure the other to themſelves. But a national party will never be the inſtruments of compleating national ruin; they will become the adverſaries of their friends, and the friends of their adverſaries, to prevent it: and the Miniſter, who perſiſts in ſo villainous a project, by what name ſoever he may affect to diſtinguiſh himſelf and his followers, will be found really at the head of a party which poſſeſſes a ſpirit of faction againſt the proſperity of their country.

* That Mr. D— — is the firſt of his profeſſion, there is not an individual of that pro-

Lord P— — —.

I COULD wiſh that the portrait of this Nobleman had a place in the dreſſing-room of every young man

feſſion will deny. Without entering into a minute deſcription of his unrivalled talents, his powerful oratory, and his profound as well as univerſal profeſſional erudition, I ſhall juſt obſerve, that every *term* beholds in him an example of a more able, unremitted, and varied practice, than was ever known before his appearance at the bar. On all occaſions, upon all points, and in every court, he maintains an acknowledged and unexampled ſuperiority.—In the Senate, he alſo ſupports an important character, and proves a weighty, powerful, and galling antagoniſt to the preſent adminiſtration. Mr. D— — has ever been moſt firmly attached to the E— of S— —, with whom he ſeems determined to continue his political career, whether it may lead to future honours, or keep him even without

man of faſhion and fortune in the kingdom,—to ſhame, if it were poſſible, the extravagant, the diſſipated, and the indolent, into a mode of life ſimilar to that which has brought him ſo large a ſhare of merited honour.

His Lordſhip entered upon the theatre of life with diſadvantages that would have diſheartened a mind leſs active and emulous of virtue than his own. His demeanour as a man, and his conduct as a ſoldier, has obtained for him the eſteem of

without a ſilk gown at the bar.—However, amid the arduous duties of his profeſſional and political life, he adopts the relaxation of faſhionable pleaſures, the too eager purſuit whereof is evident in the mutilated powers of his delivery.

this country, the love of the army, the applauſe of his Sovereign, and the offered repreſentation of the ſecond city in the kingdom. I have no apprehenſion in riſquing a prophecy, that his progreſs through life, even to its final period, will anſwer to the reſpectable manner in which he has begun it.—His eſcutcheon will poſſeſs honours beyond thoſe that Birth can give, or the Herald beſtow.—The name of H— — — demands a redemption from infamy,—and will find it in this young Lord's riſing virtues *.

G— — —

* The diſadvantages alluded to, in the foregoing obſervations, may be traced to the conduct, character, and example, of this young Nobleman's unworthy father, who, while he was throwing away his money in

G——— F——.

IF amiable manners, domeſtic virtue, elegant behaviour, manly ſpirit, kind diſpoſition, and unalterable

the loweſt ſcenes of impotent debauchery, exerciſed the moſt niggardly penury towards his ſon. But, without depreciating the acknowledged merit of Lord P———, it may be reaſonably obſerved, that theſe very unpleaſant and grating circumſtances might impreſs, on his noble mind, the ardent wiſh to reſcue his name from any popular diſgrace, by a life of honour; and to render himſelf independent of ſuch a worthleſs father, by entering with zeal into a profeſſion which might reward his ſervice. The extremes of reſtraint may be attended with very dangerous conſequences to generous minds; but it muſt alſo be acknowledged, that many examples of modern diſſipation, extravagance, and ruin,

able fidelity, can compoſe a character to command univerſal reſpect and admiration,—this excellent man muſt receive ſuch an invaluable tribute from mankind.

He has long poſſeſſed my very diſtinguiſhed regard; and, amidſt the crowd of men who have been favoured and are become ungrateful, I find ſome conſolation that ſuch an

may be traced to the inconſiderate indulgence of parental affection.

This nobleman has ſucceeded to the honours of his family, and bids fair to aſſociate a laſting reſpect with his name. In the more early part of his profeſſional ſervice, his amiable manners, and ſpirited conduct, made ſuch an impreſſion upon the corps in which he ſerved in America, that the title of his Nobility was ſuperſeded by that of the *peerleſs Peer of the twenty-ninth.*

amia-

amiable character as that before me continues to preſerve his reſpect, fidelity, and affection *.

E— — B—, Eſquire.

IF pre-eminent talents were ever accompanied with a proportionate wiſdom to guide them to proper objects, and a due diſcretion in their conduct as well as application, the poſſeſſor of ſuch combined qualifications would ſtand in a degree of ſuperiority over his fellow-creatures, which, in the arrange-

* This worthy officer is entruſted with the important duty of introducing the heir apparent of the Britiſh Throne into public life; —and, by his Sovereign's partial favour, has lately added his virtues to thoſe of the Peerage.

ment

ment of human affairs, man does not ſeem deſigned to attain.

There have been ſpeculative men who have taken no ſmall pains to prove, that, in the courſe of life, happineſs is adminiſtered in one common portion, and have declared their belief, that, if, at the cloſing ſcene, the maſs of happineſs poſſeſſed by each individual, through the courſe of his exiſtence, could be minutely aſcertained, no one would have reaſon to boaſt of a larger ſhare of happy days than the reſt of his fellow-mortals.

Others have made the ſame obſervations, and publiſhed the ſame creed, with reſpect to human virtue. —The real truth or ſophiſtry of

theſe opinions, it is not my purpoſe to ſupport, attack, or diſcover; though I have oftentimes been diſpoſed to think that there is a more general equality in the lot of mankind, than a mere attention to external circumſtances would be able to diſcloſe.

It is, alas! too evident, that the world offers to daily obſervation the glaring weakneſſes of great men, the diſgraceful application of great talents, and the ſuperior advantages obtained by the ſober walk of perſevering dulneſs. Genius ſeldom dies rich, and oftentimes finiſhes its career in diſtreſs, in poverty, and in a gaol. It is a frequent pioneer that makes the way clear for the

progreſſive improvements of inferior talents, but is ſeldom ſeen, of itſelf, to form the beginning, middle, and end, that is, the complete whole, of any thing. The fervour of imagination is apt to lead it aſtray, a conſcious pride renders it ſtubborn, the obſtacles which envy and ignorance throw in its way, beget an impatience which diſtracts its powers, while a love of eaſe, which ſeldom fails to attend it, checks its efforts, and infuſes a frequent torpour into its beſt endeavours.—It is alſo diſpoſed to aſſume the privilege of making laws for itſelf, which, in the decorations of a building, the deſign of a picture, or the compoſition of a poem, may produce ſatisfactory effects, but which, in the more ſeri-

ous

ous concerns of life, whether public or private, will not admit of a moment's adoption without the merited imputation of ignorance or folly.

The *Utopian* politician may amuſe a circle of curious liſteners by the ingenuity,—he may, perhaps, even charm them by the amiableneſs, of his error; but, employed to guide the helm, he would prove worſe than *Palinurus* himſelf, as with all the neceſſary vigilance of his office, he might guide the veſſel to the fatal rock, to which his creative fancy had given the appearance of a ſecure haven.—The loweſt Clerk in office is ſuperior to ſuch a Stateſman.

The

The Orator, who, by the ſeducing powers of his eloquence, can make the worſe appear the better reaſon, and does not heſitate to gratify his vanity, his revenge, or his diſappointment, in applying his ſuperior talents to ſuch a deteſtable purpoſe, in reſpect to real honour and utility, is far below the aukward ſtammerer, who can ſcarce expreſs his thoughts, or the moſt unreflecting Hibernian, whoſe honeſt blunders are not formed to deceive.

It may alſo be obſerved, from a variety of cauſes familiar to the moſt common reflection, that Genius, in ſome part or other of its life, and very often through the whole courſe of it, is dependent upon, becomes

ſubject

ſubject to, and is guided by, a far inferior underſtanding. It ſoars above, and it grovels below, without reſting for a moment in the middle path of Diſcretion. It alternately aſſumes the forms of profound Wiſdom and extreme Folly; but remains at an equal diſtance from the plain, undeviating line of Common-ſenſe. It can make the moſt ſimple Truths unintelligible, and give Falſhood itſelf the ſemblance of Reality.—It can, at leaſt for a time, deceive all mankind, and, in common with all mankind, can deceive itſelf.

The times in which *Milton* lived, though in themſelves of an unſeemly aſpect, were favourable to his Genius;—the retirement of his life was

the ſource of his immortality.—*Shakeſpeare* might have lived in an age when his celeſtial ſpirit would have ſlumbered, or wherein his name might have been forbidden to paſs on to the end of time.—It is a great misfortune to any man of Genius, as well as an acknowledged loſs to Society, if he lives in a period unfavourable to the diſcloſure of his intellectual powers. But if, in the moſt favourable moment of the world for the ſucceſs of great talents, he ſhould leave the path wherein he might inſtruct, delight, and illuminate his own and every future age, to follow the beckon of a more exalted ſtation, but inferior talents, and paſs his days in the arduous, diſgraceful, but devoted ſervice

vice of party and of faction,—what muſt be thought and ſaid of ſuch a man?—Pity may weep over him, Learning may lament, but Virtue will diſown him *.

* Theſe obſervations are rather characteriſtic of the Gentleman whoſe name ſuggeſted them, than philoſophically deſcriptive of that quality of the mind known by the name of Genius.—It would not accord with my deſign to enter upon a conſideration of its univerſal, or more confined properties. Mr. E— — B— will be allowed by every man in the kingdom to poſſeſs a very uncommon ſhare of it; but for a particular diſquiſition of his talents and character I ſhall refer the reader to the curſory remarks on the Oratory and Orators of the preſent times, which employ the concluding pages of this volume.

R—— W——, Eſquire.

THERE are ſome in the world, who appear to take as great pains to make themſelves objects of laughter and ridicule, as others employ to acquire a ſtrict propriety of demeanour, or to attain the more refined graces of behaviour. Such characters are generally ſuppoſed to poſſeſs a certain tincture of Inſanity; and, if a leading deviation from common reaſon deſerves that title, ſuch an application of it may be juſt, and Mr. W—— cannot be ſaid to enjoy the perfect uſe of his intellects.

He is a pleaſant, inoffenſive, ſingular

gular character, who does no harm, and may be conſidered as remarkable rather for the manner than the matter of his conduct.—He is above the common modes of doing common things, and ſeems, from the general tenor of his life, to find a pleaſure in his whims and fancies which is known only to himſelf*.

C— — —

* If this Gentleman is conſidered in the various characters of a Senator, a Militia Officer, or a Country Squire, he will be equally productive of amuſement to the curious obſerver.

His Speeches in Parliament were, in general, ſo frequent, ſo ill timed, and ſo burthenſome to all parties, that no one, I believe, ever complained of the Miniſter for granting him a penſion on the condition that he ſhould never open his lips again in his ſenatorial capacity.—It will never, I believe, be forgotten by the recorders of parliamentary anec-

C— — — B— —.

THE alarming and encroaching Influence of the Crown is the common expreſſion and favourite

dotes, that, after a debate of great length, at a very late hour, and when there was a moſt impatient outcry for the queſtion, he roſe and alarmed the houſe with a declaration that he ſhould *begin* his Speech with a *recapitulation* of every thing that had been ſaid during the courſe of that day's buſineſs.—He was treated as he deſerved, and forced to abandon his menaced enterprize.—His tent in the camp at *Wincheſter* was of his own conſtruction, and had the honour of affording no ſmall amuſement to their Majeſties when they viewed that warlike ſpectacle. He was alſo very conſiderate in diſtributing franks to the ſoldiers of his regiment, whom he uſed to aſſemble for that purpoſe, and divide them into the three different corps of thoſe who were to write to their wives, their lovers, and their relations. This ſingular and laughable

ſhow

vourite theme of antiminiſterial men, who can approve of no power but their own; nevertheleſs, with what ardor, anxiety, and expence, nay, ſometimes to the great diſtreſs of their private fortunes, are they ſeen

ſhow he uſed to exhibit from time to time, to the no ſmall amuſement of the ſpectators. —His ſeat in S——ſhire is of a piece with himſelf. Being of opinion that ſome ſort of veſſel was neceſſary to adorn his extenſive lake, he actually built a ſloop of conſiderable burthen, in the middle of a wood, at the diſtance of three or four miles from his water, whither I never heard that he was able to conduct it. He had propoſed a canal for that purpoſe, but the execution of his curious project has not reached my information.—It is not long ſince he had formed a reſolution to pay a viſit to ſome of the *Tartar* nations, and had made a conſiderable progreſs in feeding upon *raw fleſh*, that he might be, in ſome degree, prepared for a conformity to their manners and mode of life.

to aim at acquiring what is called Parliamentary Intereſt?---a many-headed Hydra, of a far more dangerous tendency to the public welfare than the fierce and terrible monſter of the Prerogative. The Intereſts of intereſted Individuals are frequently at variance with the general good; but that of the Crown is inſeparable from it. A bad Citizen may find perſonal advantages in the diſtreſſes of his country; but a King, whatever his character may be, can receive no benefit whatever but from its honour and proſperity. --When, therefore, the angry ſpirits of cabal accuſe their Sovereign of deſigns to encreaſe his power beyond the limits of public intereſt, they may think him a Knave, but,

in

in the moſt expreſs manner, they call him an Ideot.

In the hiſtory of that corruption againſt which diſappointed, unemployed, and hungry men ſo loudly exclaim, the tyrannic, deſigning, and ambitious ſpirit of individuals will compoſe a weight ſufficient to overbalance the more than common powers of the Crown.—Does not the powerful Nobleman, or the wealthy Commoner, diſcharge his ſervant, turn out his tenant, change his tradeſman, become cool towards his neighbour, and quarrel with his friend, when they give their votes, or exert their intereſt, contrary to his wiſhes?—Is it not alſo a common, nay a very general practice, for the repre-

ſentative influence in cities, boroughs, &c. to be purchaſed, not only with money, but a promiſe of parliamentary obedience? And does not the man of Ambition collect, with his political ſervice, men of eminent abilities, who aſſiſt him, according as he directs, in attaining the object of his wiſhes, and bend down in ſubſervience to his nod, from the fear of meeting his diſpleaſure, and the hopes of ſharing his fortune?—Is it not, therefore, abominable, that ſuch men ſhould dare to wag their tongues with inſolence againſt the Crown for exerting that influence which it naturally and conſtitutionally poſſeſſes, in the ſupport of meaſures previouſly determined to be neceſſary to the general welfare, as well as in

rewarding thoſe men who have ſerved it with fidelity. If the Crown corrupts,—it is becauſe men will not be led to do their duty but by the means of Corruption *.

The

* The truth of this declaration cannot be allowed in any extenſive latitude; but under certain reſtrictions, and at the preſent period, it will force an unwilling aſſent.

C——— B—— has ever been a faithful adherent to the E— of S——, who has the reputation of ſupporting him with an ample generoſity. As he has never deviated from the public track of his patron, he has been in an almoſt continual oppoſition to the meaſures of Government, and, in that line, has acquired no common ſhare of importance and reputation. His abilities ſeem better calculated for offenſive than defenſive operations, as is evident from his comparative tranquillity and inſignificance when his friend was Secretary of State, and himſelf a Vice-Treaſurer of Ireland. His manner of ſpeaking in the Senate is manly, nervous, and ſarcaſtic;

The Hon. B— W———.

IF continual attention and practice is neceſſary to the attainment or preſervation of excellence in

caſtic; but is frequently degraded by an irreſiſtible paſſion for introducing anecdotes and trifling hiſtories, ſome of which would diſgrace the babbling tongue of garrulous Dotage. He is well acquainted with the whole detail and arrangement of the military eſtabliſhment; he poſſeſſes alſo conſiderable information in the buſineſs of finance, and the Miniſters of both theſe departments find in him an able, acute, and rigid opponent. The early part of his life was paſſed in profeſſional duty, and he ſtill bears about him the rough, unpoliſhed demeanour of the brave Soldier. Chance conducted him to the notice of Lord S——, who has found in him a ſteady, political adherent.

It muſt not, however, for the ſake of public inconſiſtency, be forgotten, that this Honourable

in any qualification or profeſſion, the ſudden commencement of a war muſt find many of our Naval Officers deficient in the knowledge of their duty. The piping times of peace are to the greater part of them ſeaſons of repoſe and inactivity, when no official exerciſe of any kind is required by Government, or deſired by themſelves.

The Naval Character of Great

Honourable Gentleman's parliamentary career began with a moſt violent, outrageous, and abuſive ſpeech againſt Mr. Pitt, which that great man aptly compared to the holding a *tomahawk* to his throat.—For the ſame reaſon it ſhould alſo be remembered, that the very ſame Honourable Gentleman moved in Parliament for a national funeral to grace the remains of the Earl of Chatham, and was proud to carry the banner in the ſolemn proceſſion of that Nobleman's burial.

Britain

Britain has undergone a very conſiderable change.—I would not ſuffer the ſuſpicion of a moment to eſcape me, that their ſpirit and bravery are not the ſame as they have ever been; but the rough aſpect, the ſimple manners, the blunt ſpeech, and plain appearance, which was uſed to mark the Naval Officer, is ſucceeded by the elegance of faſhionable life; and the modern toilet of an Admiral is ſometimes tricked out with all the ſuperfluities which decorate that of a travelled Adonis.

It would be folly, as well as falſhood, to aſſert, that the enjoyments of luxury and the purſuits of faſhion will make a coward of a brave man, or extinguiſh the ſpirit of honour. But

when

when the ſailor's life is conſidered, the element on which he lives, the dangers to which he is expoſed, the hardſhips he may be obliged to encounter, with the numerous *et ceteras* which might be added, it muſt be acknowledged that his character is the leaſt adapted, of all others, to the modes and pleaſures of refined diſſipation. The prejudices of mankind, and, which may be of far more fatal conſequence, the prejudices of the ſervice, are againſt a Sea Officer who is a Coxcomb. He may be brave, active, and intelligent; but his crew will not afford him that honeſt regard and eager obedience which would be experienced by a Commander who is hardy and rough as themſelves.——I am afraid that

the

the old Officers in the Navy do not look with much complacency on the more improved and elegant manners of thoſe who are one day to ſucceed them *.

C—

* Theſe obſervations might have been applied with much more force to the preſent ſtate of the Naval Characters among us, than the R— — writer has thought proper to exert. Such a change of manners as is ſuggeſted, with great truth, to have taken place among our Sea Officers, is by no means a matter of national advantage. It may be aſſerted, without the leaſt hazard of a miſtake, that the old Naval Commanders will not be excelled by any that are in the way to ſucceed them.

Captain W— — — was allowed to be a brave and accompliſhed Officer, but bore no marks about him which would lead any perſon, ignorant of his profeſſion, to gueſs that it was to be exerciſed on board a Man of war. He poſſeſſed a pleaſant ſpecies of *tittle tattle*, could tell an old ſtory, hum a new tune,

C— T— —, Eſquire.

SOME men have acquired a character for integrity by a ſingularity of thought and manners, which

tune, circulate an anecdote, and write an agreeable letter. He would call upon twenty of his acquaintance in a morning, the firſt of whom he would entertain with ſome event of the preceding evening, and amuſe the reſt with the circumſtances of his preceding viſits. His profeſſional ſervices make no great figure in hiſtory. Soon after his marriage he went out in the fleet deſtined againſt the French Weſt-India Iſlands, during the laſt war; and Mrs. W— — — had obtained a promiſe from Admiral *Rodney*, who commanded it, that he would take the earlieſt opportunity of ſending her back her huſband.—Accordingly, on the landing of the troops at *Martinique*, or *Guadaloupe*, W— — — was very idly diſpatched home with the intelligence, but was not complimented with the bank note

which originally proceeds from affectation, obſtinacy, and ignorance. This Honourable Gentleman is of that inſignificant tribe. He loves to prate of his own unimportant ſelf; to deliver the moſt vulgar truths with the air of profound diſcovery; and is as much flattered by raiſing a laugh, though at his own expence, as any factious ſpirit has ever been

note uſually preſented to Officers who bring accounts of any memorable or important ſucceſs. However, the Rockingham Adminiſtration, to whom he renewed his pretenſions, perhaps at the requeſt of ſome of the Devonſhire family, who were his patrons, and brought him into Parliament, threw away five hundred pounds upon him.——He commanded a ſhip in Admiral Keppel's fleet at the beginning of the preſent war, and gave a very manly evidence on that Officer's trial. ——His ſubſequent command and melancholy fate is in every recollection.

by

by the freedom of a corporation.—Mr. C— T— — is the *Marplot* of his own party, and, in his parliamentary capacity, demands the pity of his friends, the contempt of the wiſe, and makes himſelf a laughing-ſtock for the crowd.

H— — H— —, Eſquire *.

IT is with no common ſatisfaction that I behold in this honourable Gentleman an example of great fortune preſerved entire, and eminent talents wiſely employed, in an age marked by every ſpecies of ruinous

* Now Lord P— — —.

extravagance, and ſhameful perverſion of great abilities.

The annals of the gaming-houſes do not record his name among thoſe who are ruined or enriched in thoſe ſeminaries of ſhameleſs and extreme profligacy. The ſcandalous chronicles of the day find nothing in his life, which can furniſh an article for their diſgraceful page. But the wiſe and candid obſervers of the paſſing ſcene, and thoſe who are the public actors on it, will give their ſincere tribute of applauſe to that ſteady perſeverance in the path of honourable duty, which diſtinguiſhes this Gentleman's active and valuable life *.

F——

* Mr. H—— is celebrated in the annals of *Eton College* for having been the cauſe of ſuppreſſing

F— — S—, Eſquire.

WHATEVER may be the conciliating power of enormous wealth, when it has been acquired

ſuppreſſing that ſhameful tyranny well known to every *Etonian* by the name of *Liberty*. An abhorrence of the infamous uſe made of its privileges by Lord B— —, who was as mean and worthleſs at ſchool, as he has ſince been in the world, occaſioned the neceſſary reformation.—But notwithſtanding the eulogium beſtowed upon this Gentleman in the foregoing obſervations, he has not proved that enemy to ill-aſſumed power, which his ſchool-boy days had promiſed for him. He is at this time an arbitrary, ſelfiſh, niggardly character; and it is rather remarkable that his advancement to the Peerage ſhould be almoſt immediately followed by a ſeries of convictions and fines, for having violated the conſtitution of his country, by the moſt notorious acts of bribery and corruption.——He

quired by notorious oppreſſion and injuſtice, it will not, in any age, or at any period, ſecure the accurſed poſſeſſor from the contempt and execration of mankind.—Laviſh profuſion may purchaſe venal applauſe; but proſtituted praiſe laſts no longer than its golden reward, and, when that ceaſes to be beſtowed, is frequently ſucceeded by a more than equal ſtrain of abuſe and rancour.

may not riſk his wealth at a gaming table; but is he known to employ it in acts of generous friendſhip or ſympathiſing humanity?—He may be active and ſedulous in his line of public life; but can it be ſaid with truth, that he poſſeſſes any of thoſe pleaſing, amiable qualities, which are the conſtituent parts of domeſtic virtue?—I do not even know the oſtenſible reaſon, much leſs the real motive, for making this man a Lord!———

Is it not a glaring diſgrace to the government of any country, where ſuch a man may live, that he ſhould eſcape for a moment the moſt exemplary puniſhment?——Should this queſtion be anſwered, as it muſt be, with a hearty affirmative, how is that diſgrace heightened, when that ſame man enjoys his ill-gotten wealth in uninterrupted ſecurity, is ſuffered to contaminate nobility by matrimonial alliance, and is admitted to a ſhare in the repreſentative adminiſtration of his country!—But if the cry of that unparallelled diſtreſs from whence he derived his immenſe treaſures, ſhould be too feeble to convict him in the quarter of the globe to which he has retreated, public Juſtice will lament her in-

effectual indignation, and muſt be content to leave the culprit to the devouring vultures of his own boſom *.

Sir

* The unexampled ſource and conſequences of this man's wealth are well known.—The *Ganges* became almoſt putrid with the victims of an artificial famine, which filled the gaping coffers of one rapacious villain. Every one has turned pale at the horrid ſtory. ——It might have been expected that contrition would have made ſome amends for the creation of paſt miſery, by employing the fruits of it in diffuſing future bleſſings; but the heart which was capable of meditating ſuch a crime, ſeems to have been naturally hardened againſt all remorſe.—Indeed, a moment's reflection will diſcover the impoſſibility, that a mind capable of ſo much evil ſhould harbour an atom of virtuous ſenſibility. ——————Mr. S—'s origin was in the loweſt rank of ſervitude; but ſuch a circumſtance is not to be conſidered as diſhonourable where the ſucceeding part of life is marked with honour.

Sir T—— R——.

IT is a miſerable and mortifying reflection, that the ſtate of public affairs, and the complexion of the times,

honour. But he had not the pride even to turn the eyes of mankind from the dunghil on which he was born, becauſe it would have coſt him a ſuperfluous purſe of gold.—Nay, ſo ſtrange is his avarice, that he had not the heart to ſpare, from his immenſe poſſeſſions, a decent proviſion to a parent who ſtruggled hard to maintain himſelf by the caſual profits of a little alehouſe in Yorkſhire.—He offered his Father a maintenance not equal to the gains of his own miſerable profeſſion, and the old man turned the poſſeſſor of half a million out of his hovel, as unworthy of him.—I will not diſguſt the reader with the recital of a thouſand other pitiful acts of meanneſs that force themſelves upon my diſdainful recollection.———

If the parliamentary Committee, appointed

times, oblige me to receive ſuch men as theſe into my preſence.—It is to be hoped, and believed, that every oriental fortune has not been acquired by the ſame means and with equal miſchief. But the cry of mankind is loud againſt thoſe men who have returned to Europe, laden with the golden harveſts of the Eaſt, which have been reaped by famine and the ſword, or taken by the hand of power from the granary.—I am compelled to confirm the general

to examine into the adminiſtration of affairs in India, had commenced with this Man, inſtead of *Lord Clive*, there is every reaſon to believe that a ſtriking and juſt example would have been made of *Oriental Rapacity*.—But that neceſſary buſineſs was taken up at the wrong end, and, of courſe, failed to anſwer the deſirable purpoſe for which it was undertaken.

opinion ;

opinion; for, excepting ſome very few examples, the dæmon of Intereſt has been the god of them all *.

* I ſhall never forgive, nor will the future Hiſtorian forget, the death of that worthy man, and faithful ſervant of the Eaſt-India Company, the late Lord Pigot.—Is it poſſible that the Juſtice of this country ſhould be ſo weak, or lulled with ſo powerful an opiate, as to leave ſuch daring offenders againſt every law, human and divine, to the eternal puniſhment of the laſt day?—This Baronet, like others of ſimilar fortune, was in a ſtation of a very menial ſervitude.—The ſtory of *Whittington and his cat* is no longer a fable!!

A BRIEF

A

BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE PRINCIPAL

ORATORS

OF THE

PRESENT TIMES.

THE Hiſtory of mankind affords, in almoſt every page of its ample volume, examples of men, whoſe ſuperior talents are recorded for the admiration of ſucceſſive ages.—The Stateſman, the Warrior, the Legiſlator, and the Patriot, afford frequent conſolation to the attentive Student in the ſad review of human weakneſs and human calamity; —

mity;—but the great and accompliſhed Orator is a character of rare growth in any period of the world, and Antiquity, in the long and glorious catalogue of eminent men which ſhe has delivered down to the preſent age, poſſeſſes but few names which are diſtinguiſhed by the honours of pre-eminent Oratory.

Demoſthenes and *Cicero* ſtand almoſt alone in the Greek and Roman annals; and thoſe men who poſſeſſed a ſecond claſs among the public Speakers of the ſame ages and nations, are but few in number. The eloquent Roman, therefore, is juſtified in marking the extreme difficulty of attaining any ſuperior degree of that excellence in which he

ſurpaſſed

ſurpaſſed all his cotemporaries, from the comparative barrenneſs of all periods in the production of conſummate Orators *.

The

* "The art of Oratory is more noble, and requires the knowledge of more Arts and Sciences, than is commonly imagined: for what other reaſon but the difficulty of the undertaking can be aſſigned, why, among ſuch a great number of Students, endowed with excellent natural parts, ſo few ſucceed; though there be no want of able maſters, an infinite variety of cauſes, and the moſt ample rewards annexed to the attainment.—To form an Orator, therefore, beſides an extenſive knowledge, without which the moſt eaſy flow of language will appear trifling and ridiculous; I ſay, beſides this, the ſtyle muſt be likewiſe embelliſhed by a moſt accurate arrangement as well as a moſt correct choice of expreſſions. A perfect knowledge of all the affections which nature has beſtowed on mankind is alſo neceſſary; becauſe the whole power of Eloquence ought to be exerted, in order

The multiplicity of ſubjects, on which the public Speaker may exerciſe his talents, the number and diverſity of circumſtances where his powers of perſuaſion may be directed,

order to rouſe or calm the minds of the auditory. To this muſt be added, a certain gracefulneſs, an enlivening raillery, a general knowledge of literature, a ready talent for reply, and a delicate manner of attacking an adverſary. A perfect acquaintance with antiquity is alſo requiſite; nor is the ſtudy of laws and juriſprudence to be neglected. It will be ſcarce neceſſary to enlarge upon the utility of action, which muſt be regulated by the motion of the body, the geſture, and the countenance, with a due command and ſuitable flexibility of voice. Nor is it needful to dwell upon the neceſſity of a retentive memory, that treaſury of all knowledge, to whoſe keeping, unleſs the inventions, reflections, and expreſſions of the Orator are committed, they muſt, however excellent in themſelves, be infallibly loſt.—Wherefore, ſince

ed, conſtitute the different ſpecies of Eloquence.

Men, who are charged with the affairs of Government, who are called to direct the ſecret ſprings of its operations, and find it a part of their duty to deliberate on matters of great, national importance,—muſt be continually engaged in delivering counſels, propoſing as well as inforcing their opinions, making repreſentations, ſuſtaining conferences, defending meaſures, removing obſtacles, ſoftening the efforts, or

ſince Eloquence conſiſts of a combination of all thoſe accompliſhments, the ſtudy whereof, individually, is a matter of the greateſt difficulty, let us ceaſe to wonder that good Orators are ſo few in number."—*Cic. de Orat.*

con-

conciliating the regard, of oppoſing parties.—Theſe are the objects of political Eloquence *.

That which is confined to the diſcuſſion of civil cauſes, or criminal proſe-

* In a State where public affairs are decided by the plurality of voices, and in which public reſolutions depend upon the many, or, at leaſt, a certain number of perſons, who, according to the common courſe of things, will not be animated by the ſame mind, led on by the ſame views, or excited by ſimilar motives;—in ſuch a Government, it is not probable that a ſimple expoſition of objects will induce every individual to adopt the ſame ſentiments. That which one may conſider as beneficial to his country, another, from prejudice, paſſion, or intereſt, may regard as pregnant with danger, or at leaſt of no utility. Whatever power Truth may poſſeſs, when ſhe appears in the ſimple raiment of Nature to reflecting and philoſophic minds,

proſecutions among individuals,—whoſe object is to attack crimes, to defend innocence, to unmaſk injuſtice and fraud, to preſerve the feeble from oppreſſion, and to arm the laws in his defence,—is properly ſtyled the Eloquence of the Bar.—Religion, alſo, whoſe office it is to prepare mankind for a better world, poſſeſſes an eloquence appropriated to enforce the practice of thoſe virtues which are to conduct us to it. But, in this country, the Profeſſion of the Law requires Sagacity rather than

minds, it will not be found ſufficient to make any ſtrong impreſſion upon the bulk of mankind. The Orator, who poſſeſſes reſolution to ſurmount obſtacles, dexterity to diſſipate prejudices, and the happy art of moving and conciliating the multitude, will alone be able to obtain a commanding influence in public deliberations.

Eloquence ;

Eloquence; and, tho' opportunities occaſionally offer where the Orator may find room for the full diſplay of his talents, the ſubtleties of legal queſtions, the form of judicial proceedings, and the very language in which the law unfolds itſelf, are ſo many obſtacles to the beauty and perfection of public ſpeaking. The nature of our Pulpit Delivery, alſo, will not admit of oratorical eminence. The cauſe of virtue itſelf, the immortal intereſts of man, the commands of heaven, though urged in a perfect elegance of ſtyle, and with the moſt powerful argumentation, when delivered by the moſt correct reading from a prepared compoſition, will produce but ineffectual ſympathies, when compared with thoſe lively

emotions which riſe from the animated and impulſive energies of the powerful Orator.

The two Houſes of Parliament compoſe the grand theatre of *Britiſh* Eloquence, and it is there we muſt ſearch for *Britiſh* Orators ;—nor will it be a fruitleſs enquiry. The catalogue of thoſe men who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves and their country, by an Eloquence equal, if not ſuperior, to the moſt ſplendid names of *Greece* and *Rome*, will be found to contain a far greater number in that ſpecies of excellence than *Greece* or *Rome* could ever boaſt. From theſe it is my purpoſe to ſelect a few, whoſe connection with the preſent times, and whoſe diſtinct as well as diſtin-

diſtinguiſhed oratorical talents, may form a ſubject of improving, agreeable, and intereſting ſpeculation.

Earl of Mansfield.

THIS Nobleman is one of the moſt accompliſhed Orators which Great-Britain ever produced. Partial Nature adorned his mind with all her care, and he gratefully improved her favours, by the moſt early and aſſiduous application *: nor did he long remain without that decided

* In the very early part of his life, he is ſaid to have been able to repeat, in the moſt perfect manner, the Orations of *Demoſthenes* and *Cicero*, not only in their original languages, but in his own excellent tranſla-

decided reputation which announced the eminence that he has ſince attained *.

Lord Mansfield's Eloquence is not of that violent, declamatory kind, whoſe characteriſtic is to make ſudden

ſions. The private repetition of ſome or other of theſe remains of antient Eloquence, ſuppoſed to have been the exerciſe which he daily practiſed, to rival the fame of thoſe great Orators in his own age and nation.

* Soon after he entered upon the profeſſion of a public pleader, he was employed on ſome important occaſion at the bar of the Houſe of Commons, where he ſo highly diſtinguiſhed himſelf, that *Sir Robert Walpole* declared the merit of the young lawyer's ſpeech to be ſo great, that it almoſt appeared to him to have been an Oration of *Cicero*. But that was not all;—for *Mr. Pulteney* roſe to compleat the eulogium, by aſſerting that he not

only

den impreſſions: it may be rather ſaid to poſſeſs a pure and Attic ſpirit, whoſe gentle but powerful inſinuation delights, inſtructs, and convinces. It may be compared to a river that meanders in never-ceaſing beauty through verdant meads and flowery gardens, reflecting, in its cryſtal boſom, the varied objects that adorn its banks, and refreſhing the country through which it flows.

His Lordſhip poſſeſſes the powers

* only could imagine the ſpeech which had been juſt delivered to be the compoſition of *Cicero*, but that the Roman Orator had himſelf pronounced it.—Thus, theſe two great men, who hated and oppoſed each other with ſuch a long and continued rancour, united for once to compoſe the moſt brilliant panegyric that ever was beſtowed on riſing merit.

of Diſcrimination in a moſt ſuperior degree; and the manner in which he exerciſes them, to ſupport his own argument, or to weaken that of his opponent, can only be conceived by thoſe who have attended to public orations. The perſpicuity of his expreſſions can only be equalled by the elegance of their arrangement, and the preciſion in their application. He never quits his ſubjects, baniſhes from his arguments every poſſible ſuperfluity, and never fails to ſtop at the very point, when, to proceed, would be an error. Bold and vehement images ſeldom elevate his diſcourſe: he can uſe them, for he has done it with ſucceſs; but they are not peculiarly ſuited to the ſpecies of Eloquence for which he

is

is ſo deſervedly celebrated, and are reſerved by him for occaſions, which, in his line of debate, do not often occur. His Eloquence is ſoft, flowing, and uninterrupted, ſimple, delightful, and affecting: it diſdains fictitious decorations, and truſts alone to the graces of improved Nature.

When he employs Art, and he ſometimes has recourſe to ſuch aſſiſtance, he diſplays a conſummate knowledge of men and things, by the objects to which it is addreſſed, and the manner wherein it is employed. His genius is comprehenſive and penetrating; and, when he judges it to be neceſſary, he can pour forth ſounds that will ſeduce,

as well as diſplay manners which may perſuade, or enforce arguments which will convince: for, among the more rare qualifications of this eminent Orator, the external graces of his perſon, the piercing eye, the ſweet-toned voice, and harmonious Elocution, muſt not be forgotten. It would be injuſtice, alſo, not to remember the happy arrangement of his moſt extemporaneous ſpeeches, which poſſeſs all the accurate excellence of diſcourſes committed to paper with the utmoſt care and attention, previous to the public delivery of them.

Lord *Mansfield* approaches more nearly to the character of *Cicero* than that of any other among the leading

Orators

Orators of antient times; nor can the diſtinguiſhed Roman be diſgraced on being compared to a man, whoſe unprepared Orations have been equal to thoſe which had received the moſt arduous correction of his own judgment.

It muſt, however, be acknowledged, that Fortitude, a virtue ſo eſſential to the Stateſman and public Orator, ſeems to have taken an imperfect abode in this Nobleman's boſom; and, from a deficiency in this neceſſary quality, may proceed that occaſional ſubtlety which he diſplays in his public ſpeeches.—His political opinions are frequently delivered with a caution unworthy of a great man, and denote ſome doubt, fallacy,

lacy, or apprehenſion, which cannot fail to degrade a great character.—The weakneſs of the Man may ſometimes leſſen the reputation of the Orator; but the name of *Lord Mansfield* will deſcend to poſterity, with the honour due to one of the moſt able and eloquent men, which this, or perhaps any country, has ever produced *.

Earl of Chatham.

THAT ſpecies of Eloquence, which bears the title of ſublime, is majeſtic, abundant, ſplen-

* The late Charles Townſhend was of the ſame claſs, in the line of public ſpeaking.—See vol. vi. p. 14.

did

did, and unites in itſelf all the ſtrength and vehemence which the art of Oratory poſſeſſes. It is that kind of Eloquence which commands an inſtant and univerſal aſſent, renders itſelf the miſtreſs of public deliberations, aſtoniſhes the world by the rapidity of its courſe, and, after having excited the applauſe and admiration of mankind, leaves them in deſpair to attain an equal height of perfection. In a word, it is that Eloquence which reigns, with ſovereign authority, over the minds, and in the hearts, of all who liſten to it, ſometimes overturning whatever ſhall reſiſt its force, and at other times inſinuating itſelf into the very ſoul by its ſecret charms; to-day eſtabliſhing opinions altogether unknown,

known, and, on the morrow, mingling thoſe with the duſt which appeared to be immoveably eſtabliſhed.

Such was the Eloquence of the late *Earl* of *Chatham*.—The grandeur of his ideas, the force of his expreſſions, the magnanimity of his ſentiments, the extent of his knowledge, the wiſdom of his experience, the energy of his voice, the powers of his look, the dignity of his action, will juſtify my aſſertion in the opinion even of thoſe who have only heard of his Name; but to thoſe who have heard his Voice in the public deliberations of his country, my definition of his Eloquence, or perhaps any other, muſt appear inadequate to that combination

nation of pre-eminent excellence which compoſed it. It was a rapid torrent, whoſe irreſiſtble flood bore down, and overwhelmed, every thing that oppoſed its courſe; and, after having amazed the country through which it rolled its impetuous waters, made the ocean itſelf recoil from a ſuperior wave.

The elevated aſpect of this great Man commanded the awful veneration of all who beheld him; while, by a certain peculiar grace in his manner, ariſing from a conſciouſneſs of his own exalted character, the dignity of his ſituation, and the ſolemn, important ſcenes wherein he had acted, he ſeemed at once to acknowledge and repay the reſpect

which

which he had received. The ſubjects on which his Eloquence has at any time been employed, whether while he was in the poſſeſſion of power, or after his retreat, were worthy of it. The moſt important intereſts of his country occupied his comprehenſive, vigorous, and ſuperior mind: they quickened his enthuſiaſm, elevated his dignity, and ſublimed his diſcourſe. Under their impulſe, he would ariſe from the animated purſuit of irrefragable argument, to a boldneſs of hyperbole that became him alone, and venture even upon the language of Prophecy, which could only be juſtified by its certain accompliſhment.

No idea was too vaſt, no image too

too ſublime, for the grandeur of his conceptions, and the majeſty of his manner. His expreſſions ſeemed to be of his own creation, and yielded in ſtrength and ſublimity but to the language of Inſpiration, which he was accuſtomed to adopt with ſuch powerful and appropriate energy. Hence it was, that he could ſtrike his adverſaries dumb, make Miniſters tremble, and Engliſhmen enthuſiaſts. Hence it was, that he perſuaded this nation to believe themſelves irreſiſtible as well as invincible, and, under ſuch impreſſions, to realize their belief.

At the cloſe of life, his venerable form, though bowed with age and infirmity, was ſtill animated by a mind

mind that nothing could ſubdue: his ſpirit ſtill remained, and, till the laſt act of his political life beneath which he ſunk, continued to arm his eye with lightning, and to clothe his lips with thunder.

The ſuperior characteriſtic of Lord Chatham's Eloquence was Dignity; and ſuch was the compaſs of his powers, that there was no playfulneſs of fancy, or ſprightlineſs of wit, (and he poſſeſſed them both in an eminent degree,) which he could not accommodate to the leading feature of his character. His riſing up, and his ſitting down, every trifling motion, or familiar action, was ſo managed as to partake of the general grandeur of his nature, and ren-

der

der it more conſpicuous. They who have ſeen and heard him will acknowledge that ſome degree of juſtice is done to Lord Chatham's abilities in this imperfect ſketch of them. To thoſe whoſe admiration of him ſprings entirely from the deſcription of others. I muſt addreſs myſelf in the language of antient Eloquence, *Quanto magis admiraremini, ſi audiſſetis ipſum* *.

Mr. Edmund Burke.

THE univerſality of this Gentleman's knowledge and erudition, the powers of his imagina-

* See the curſory thoughts on the Earl of Chatham's public character, vol. ii. p. 168.

tion, the rapidity of his eloquence, the perfection of his language, and the various objects to which he can, and does continually apply them all, muſt tend to make him a very conſpicuous and diſtinguiſhed character in the ſcenes of the preſent period. It may, perhaps, be conſidered by ſome as a misfortune to the world, that this extraordinary Genius, whoſe private ſtudies might have ſo greatly delighted and informed it, ſhould have been thrown into the tumult of public life.—It is there, however, that we muſt attend him to conſider the various and aſtoniſhing qualities of his oratorical character.

Mr. Burke's powers of perſuaſion are ſcarcely to be equalled, his ſources

ſources of knowledge are univerſal and inexhauſtible, his memory is comprehenſive and faithful, while his mind teems with the moſt luxuriant imagery, cloathed in the moſt elegant language, and ſtrengthened by the moſt fortunate and brilliant expreſſions. The ſplendor of his fancy has never been excelled by any Orator, and even by few Poets, of any age or period. From the depths of Science, the labours of Art, the long track of Hiſtory, the flights of Poetry, the paſſing Moment, as well as that which is gone for ever, it collects, or, I ſhould rather ſay, commands the moſt apt, varied, and beautiful images, to ſupport and decorate his Elocution: nay, ſuch is the extent of his power,

that, in the very tumult of his Eloquence, they inſtantaneouſly preſent themſelves, from the general miſcellany of nature and things, like the ſoldiers of *Cadmus*, in complete armour and array, to ſupport the cauſe of their creator.—The mine below, and the firmament above, the cave of the ocean, and the Alpine mountain, the ſplendor of a throne, and the peaſant's *clouted ſhoon*, are alike the overflowing ſources of ſtrength and decoration to his Eloquence.—The harmony of his periods, and the accuracy of his expreſſions, in his moſt unpremeditated ſpeeches, are not among the leaſt of his oratorical accompliſhments. In the moſt rapid of his flights, when his tongue can ſcarce

keep

keep pace with his thoughts, and the hearer can, with difficulty, attend him in his courſe, he never fails to ſeize the moſt choice words and expreſſions that are to be found in the treaſury of language.

His details are intereſting, important, and correct; his arguments are plauſible, replete with information, and never ſupported by deſigned miſrepreſentation to anſwer the purpoſes of debate.—His knowledge of parliamentary buſineſs is ſo vaſt and multifarious, that every matter brought into diſcuſſion, whether politics, juriſprudence, finances, commerce, manufactures, or internal police, with all their diviſions, ſubdiviſions, and ramifications, is treated

by him in ſuch a maſterly manner, as to induce thoſe who hear him to imagine, that he had dedicated his life to the inveſtigation of that particular ſubject.—After all, it would be injuſtice to paſs over his occaſional diſplays of the moſt pure moral, and to omit the acknowledgment that his ſpeeches ſeldom fail to poſſeſs a ſtrong tincture of the moſt amiable philoſophy.

On the other hand, it muſt be confeſſed, that he is deficient in dignity, and that his judgment too often yields to his imagination. He frequently exerts the ſame powers on the regulation of a waggon wheel, or ſome ſimilar ſubject, as on the moſt important queſtions of national honour,

honour, or public proſperity. His diſcourſes are ſometimes ſo highly coloured, ſo profuſely embelliſhed, and ſo thickly ſown with brilliant thoughts, that, like a picture, where the ſhades are too faint to relieve the glaring tints, they produce little more than a ſplendid confuſion. He is alſo too fond of playing with ſome fanciful idea to gain a laugh, or throw ſome ſtriking ridicule upon his antagoniſt; ſo that, in his excurſive flights, he oftentimes perplexes, diſtreſſes, and wearies his audience, and thereby ſacrifices the conviction which might follow his diſcourſe, to the puerile caprice or political malice of the moment.—Hence it is, that his wit ſometimes degenerates into buf-

ſoonery and ill-nature, and his Oratory into fuſtian and bombaſt.—While his language poſſeſſes unrivalled beauty, he is wholly inattentive to the common graces of action and delivery: his voice is not harmonious, and he does not ſeem attentive to remedy the defect, by any artful and judicious management of it. His countenance is by no means the index of his accompliſhed mind; and his action, which is violent, affords no energetic aid, either to his argument, or his declamation.——Nevertheleſs, in ſpite of his wild, excurſive flights into the regions of fancy, his frequent deviations from the ſubject in debate, his attention to trifles when matters of importance abound, he

he muſt, without hesitation, be numbered among the moſt accompliſhed Orators of his age and country *.

Mr. Dunning.

THE courts of Law may, perhaps, be conſidered as the principal ſcene of this Gentleman's

* When I conſider that this Gentleman poſſeſſes in himſelf a rare union of great talents, almoſt incompatible with each other; —that he writes as well as he ſpeaks, and owns a verſatility of genius, capable of ſuperior excellence, in any thing and every thing; —I cannot but lament that the claims of mankind upon him are loſt, and his eminent faculties miſpent, in the laborious drudgery of a party, which renders his utility dubious, compreſſes the powers of his mind, and threatens to obſcure his fame.

ſuperior

ſuperior abilities; they have, undoubtedly, placed him at the head of his profeſſion: but the Senate will alſo bear a willing teſtimony to pre-eminent exertions of his oratorical talents. His parliamentary Eloquence has not been excelled by his pleadings at the bar; and his fame will receive an equal tribute from them both. He is acute, diſcerning, and pointed; penetrating, ingenious, and logical; flowing, comprehenſive, and well informed. Nor does his Oratory want the aid of ſtriking metaphor, biting ſarcaſm, or ready wit. He can command them all when his ſubject requires their aſſiſtance. But his ſuperior excellence ariſes from a moſt admirable ſkill and unrivalled power in the

the line of argumentation.—As a *Logician*, he is without an equal.—This quality, together with the habits of law pleadings, may ſometimes betray him into ſubtleties and diſtinctions which are beneath a great mind: but this failing belongs to the lawyer rather than the politician; and, though the failure of his voice has of late interrupted the natural flow of his Eloquence, he will be conſidered as one of thoſe diſtinguiſhed Orators who poſſeſs the foremoſt rank in the Auguſtan age of this country.

Theſe great men whoſe ſuperior talents were never excelled, and, perhaps, rarely equalled in any period of the world, may be ſaid to have

diſ-

diſplayed, in their various oratorical exertions, whatever Eloquence can boaſt.—To continue, therefore, the catalogue of Orators which our country ſtill poſſeſſes, would be little more than to repeat the qualities already deſcribed in the portraits of the four great, but diſtinct public ſpeakers whoſe names do ſo much honour to the preceding pages.—The Lords *Camden* and *Shelburne*, Mr. *Charles Fox*, the Lords *Thurlow* and *Loughborough*, with many others, might be added to embelliſh the preſent hiſtory of Britiſh Eloquence.—And much is it to be lamented that ſuch a conſtellation of great abilities, inſtead of oppoſing and calumniating each other, to the diſtraction of our public counſels, the exultation of

our

our enemies, and the diſhonour of the Britiſh name, do not form one firm, compact maſs of patriot ſtrength, which might reſtore Great Britain to the pre-eminent ſtation ſhe of late poſſeſſed among the nations of the world.

END OF THE SEVENTH VOLUME.

Lately published by J. BEW, No. 28, Pater-Noſter-Row,

Neatly printed on a fine Writing-Paper,

I. LETTERS of the late Lord LYTTELTON, in two volumes, Price 6s. ſewed, or either volume ſeparate at 3s.

II. LETTERS of an ITALIAN NUN and an ENGLISH GENTLEMAN, tranſlated from the FRENCH of J. J. ROUSSEAU, Price 2s. 6d. ſewed.

III. LETTERS between Two LOVERS and their FRIENDS, in three vols. 7s. 6d. ſewed, or 9s. bound, by the Author of *Letters ſuppoſed to have been written by Yorick and Eliza*; of the latter of which, the Editors of the Critical Review, after giving copious extracts from theſe entertaining volumes, begin and conclude their remarks as follow: "The ſtyle and manner of theſe letters bear ſo ſtrong a reſemblance to thoſe of the ſame title which were the genuine production of Mr. Sterne, that, were we not told by the Editor, that they were only imitations, they might with great appearance of juſtice be aſcribed to that writer.—*Vide Preface.*"

"The Author of theſe Letters has taken up the ſubject where the Letters between Yorick and Eliza ended, and, to preſerve the greater appearance of originality, has adopted the circumſtances which governed the mutual and ſingular attachment of thoſe perſonages. Theſe Letters, in general, have a moral tendency, and abound in ſuch ſentiments as are calculated to improve the heart."

BRITISH MUSEUM